




Speech By  
**Adam Baillie**

**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2025

## **MAKING QUEENSLAND SAFER (ADULT CRIME, ADULT TIME) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (7.52 pm): I rise to make but a modest contribution and speak in support of the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025. I represent the proud electorate of Townsville, an electorate that has been plagued by the youth crime crisis for years. Under Labor, youth crime became worse and worse. Youth crime continued to escalate. What started as petty crime became opportunistic crime, to break and enters, to break and enters with assaults, to break and enters with assaults with weapons. The youth committing these crimes stopped running from police and instead now run at them. This is what has occurred under Labor's watch. Under Labor, their soft-on-crime approach resulted in severely inadequate consequences. Our brave and dedicated Police Service would often relay their frustrations to me after they put all their effort into identifying and apprehending young offenders, only to see the same offenders out on the streets again before they had finished doing the paperwork.

The young offenders continue to commit more serious crimes in search for boundaries, in search for someone to say, 'Enough. That behaviour is not tolerated.' Under Labor, those boundaries were exceedingly hard to find and, as a result, we have a generation of hardcore repeat offenders.

Thankfully, in October last year, the majority of the Queensland public, including the good people of Townsville, saw fit to entrust the LNP with the responsibility to govern, and put their trust in us to do something about youth crime—to make their community safer.

Once elected, the Crisafulli government has acted swiftly. The Making Queensland Safer Laws were passed before Christmas, as we committed. These laws removed detention as a last resort, put the rights of the victims before those of the offenders, and opened up the courts to media to allow reporting on cases. In addition, critically, we began the journey of returning consequences for actions into the youth justice system—introducing and passing the first tranche of 13 offences to have increased sentencing options for the courts to allow the same maximum, minimum and mandatory penalties as an adult. This is what we call Adult Crime, Adult Time.

Adult Crime, Adult Time has been introduced to protect the community. It is intended to separate the community from those that would do us harm and provide these young offenders with an even greater opportunity for intervention and rehabilitation. It is clear from the high offending and reoffending rates that the previous approach by Labor was not working. When you have reoffending rates north of 90 per cent, penalties and rehabilitation efforts are not working.

Those opposite, when they were in government, used to say that Queensland had the toughest laws in Australia. Did that stop the offending? No. Did that stop our community from suffering? No. Since we have been in government, we have made Labor's laws, the ones they called the toughest laws in the country, a whole lot tougher.

Despite everything we have done so far, we remain a long way from where we need to be when it comes to youth crime. The offending rates and number of victims is still too high. We will not stop until we see the number of victims decrease. Adding another 20 offences to Adult Crime, Adult Time is the next step we are taking to combat the youth crime crisis we inherited from Labor. The member for Woodridge can rest assured the only broken laws we are fixing are theirs.

This bill expands the Youth Justice Act to include an additional 20 serious offences that can attract adult penalties, and we will continue to do so until we see sentences handed down by the courts that are in line with community expectations. This bill will ensure youth offenders who commit serious crimes, including sexual offences, violent offences and offences that cause fear in the community can face serious consequences for their actions.

Some of the new offences include: going armed so as to cause fear and threatening violence, arson, torture, kidnapping, trafficking in dangerous drugs, rape and attempted rape, sexual assault, ramming a police vehicle while driving, and attempted murder. These additions to Adult Crime, Adult Time are welcomed by the Townsville community because, like the Crisafulli government, like all the residents of my wonderful electorate, we want to see fewer victims of crime.

I would like to thank the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee for visiting Townsville and, of course, our community for attending and providing feedback to the committee and making the most of the opportunity to have their voices heard directly. I will reference some of those submissions to the committee as I do have a little bit of time up my sleeve. In Townsville, we heard from the brave and dedicated Queensland Police Union who said—

When speaking to members in Townsville and Cairns, I am routinely spoken to about how cars are stolen from either location and raced between Townsville and Cairns or Cairns and Townsville, thereby putting our members at significant risk.

We heard from David Forbes, referencing a recent event—

On Sunday night, my 88-year-old widowed neighbour, who lives alone, had two teenagers break into her house and take money from her.

We heard from Alana Hall, who said—

It has become quite terrifying to me and my husband. We do not sleep very well. We listen for noises every night. We have had to spend a lot of money—thousands of dollars—to put in security screens and security lighting. Other people in our complex have had the same thing happen to them. ... It has just been quite terrifying.

That was following a break-in they experienced. They had their car keys stolen. The car did not go but in order to protect their car from being stolen, as the assailant had the keys, Greg—Alana's husband—took the wheels off the car. They are the measures people in Townsville are taking to protect their goods and property. We heard from Phil Rennick, a defence lawyer who when asked in his experience if young people were talking about the new laws said, 'Definitely, yes'. Phil also recounted several cases that indicated Adult Crime, Adult Time is on the way as new cases are heard for offences that were committed after the laws were in place. In the remaining time, I would like to also reference Kristy who on Mother's Day woke up—rather than to chocolates and breakfast in bed—to three youths in her house holding a knife to her throat. They took her car keys, they took her car and they drove all around Townsville. The offenders are still at large.

I would like to thank the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services for her advocacy for victims and for ensuring we keep taking positive steps to ensure we continue to see offending rates reduced and the number of victims decrease. I am proud to support this amendment because the people of Townsville, like all Queenslanders, have the right to feel safe in their homes, at their work and in their communities. I commend this bill to the House.