




Speech By  
**Hon. Ann Leahy**

**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 June 2025

**POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (MAKING JACK'S LAW PERMANENT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; CORRECTIVE SERVICES (PAROLE BOARD) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (8.08 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill being debated in cognate with the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill. These bills will help deliver on our commitment to make Queensland safer. Following Jack Beasley's tragic passing after a knife related crime on the Gold Coast in 2019, steps have been taken by key stakeholders, including the Jack Beasley Foundation, to introduce and strengthen Queensland's knife crime enforcement response. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge Belinda and Brett Beasley, who have been so incredibly strong during those most difficult circumstances. I also want to acknowledge the member for Bonney, who I know has very much walked beside Belinda and Brett Beasley throughout this time. I want to thank him for the support he has provided to the family.

The LNP has been supportive of Jack's Law from day one and today's improvements will make it better and more effective than ever before. After a successful trial in 2021 in the safe night precincts at Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise, the former government extended the trial, but in April 2023 it lost its credibility entirely after introducing a complex and onerous system that made the job of police far more difficult. The reforms introduced then and various considerations that were needed to be made prior to commencing the wandering operation in effect were regulatory roadblocks. It was simply a continuation of the soft-on-crime approach we saw from the previous Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government that resulted in a youth crime crisis.

This bill makes Jack's Law permanent by removing the sunset clause in the schedules with its expiry on 30 October 2026. It allows a police officer to use a handheld scanner in a relevant place without the need to obtain an authority to do so from a senior police officer. It expands the application of Jack's Law to include public places that are not relevant places by allowing police officers to use a handheld scanner in these areas provided they first obtain authority to do so from a senior police officer. There are many places across my electorate that that could easily be applicable to. My electorate has some major race meetings and music festivals. I want to give a shout-out to the community of Thargomindah, which had a thousand caravans at its Music in the Mulga festival on the weekend, so there are many places where that could be relevant across my electorate. It also simplifies the notification and reporting framework for police. It improves policing efficiencies by streamlining the legislative framework underlying Jack's Law.

Here is what some Queensland councils also had to say about this legislation, and I know that this is something that certainly does resonate with mayors and councillors across the state. The Gold Coast City council said that knife crime is a growing community concern and failing to extend Jack's Law is likely to adversely affect public safety as there would be fewer deterrents to carrying weapons in public places, increasing the risk of knife related incidents. The Cairns Regional Council said that its

council unequivocally supports the proposed amendments. The Cairns Regional Council provided that the proposal will benefit society by proactively identifying and deterring knife related offences, raising community confidence and enabling more efficient law enforcement mechanisms.

The passing of this legislation will deliver on the Crisafulli LNP government's commitment to expand and make Jack's Law permanent. It will protect Queenslanders and equip our police with laws that are both fit for purpose and efficient. Most importantly, it will save lives and it will save, in many cases, those young lives that are so precious—those people who have not had the opportunity to actually live their life. We note that the parliamentary Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee tabled its report on the bill and made just one recommendation—that the bill be passed—and I thank the committee for its scrutiny and support of the bill.

I will now turn to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill. This bill puts the rights of victims and community safety first by giving the Parole Board Queensland the power to review decisions made by individual board members to leave parolees in the community, and I think that that is a very important thing—that is, parolees who are in the community. These changes are supported by the Parole Board President, Michael Woodford. He said that this bill will correct a substantial gap that has existed in the Parole Board suspension framework for some time. This section of the bill is amending what appears to be a legislative oversight and he wanted to be crystal clear that practically there is a gap.

When there are gaps where parolees are in the community, it is important that we do the right thing and make sure that we keep our community safe by amending that legislation. The Crisafulli LNP government is putting that community safety in victims first by ensuring that the Parole Board has the power to and must—importantly, must—review decisions of a single board member to keep prisoners in the community. We are fixing Labor's failure and giving the board the power that it needs to do its job to make the decisions to keep the community safe.