




Speech By
Hon. Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2025

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

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.22 pm): I rise to address the legislation for our latest tranche of the Making Queensland Safer laws. Before I get to the substance of the bill, I want to reflect on the nature of the contributions from those opposite over the past two days. I have not seen a more duplicitous and self-serving position on this issue. Many of those opposite do not support this legislation but they do not have the courage to admit that to Queenslanders. When those opposite were in government, they presided over a progressive weakening of exactly these types of laws and that created this problem, but they will not face up to Queenslanders and admit that that is the case. We see them come in here and mount these spurious arguments, citing transparency and saying that we need greater consideration and review periods. Those opposite had an opportunity to fix this problem and they made it worse. Labor made the youth crime crisis worse. Every single time they weakened the laws, more Queenslanders suffered.

One of the main reasons that the Crisafulli government was elected in October was to fix Labor's mess. I note that many members opposite have had to get on the Dutch courage tonight in order to come in here and state their case because they are so lacking in courage—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Buderim, I ask you to withdraw that comment.

Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw that comment, which was not directed at an individual but a collective. They are so lacking in the courage of their convictions that they will not come in here and admit that they do not support this legislation.

We will continue to bring in any legislation that is required to make Queenslanders safer. Our commitment to strengthen laws and put victims first has been met with overwhelming support. Fixing Labor's youth crime crisis is no easy task but we are making progress to ensure that families can feel safe and secure in their own homes and in their communities. That is every Queenslanders' right. We will continue to strengthen the laws for as long as it takes for safety to be restored and for victims to be protected. I welcome and support the Expert Legal Panel's recommendation to expand the total number of offences in our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws to 33. If young offenders are committing heinous crimes such as rape, attempted murder and torture then they must be dealt with in a way that meets the community's expectations. Unlike those on the other side, we will not tolerate those crimes here in Queensland.

My community on the Sunshine Coast has not been immune to Labor's youth crime crisis, which has long been one of the biggest issues raised with me by my constituents. I hear from families in Sippy Downs, Palmview and Mountain Creek who have been terrorised by youth offenders. Residents tell me that often it is the same teenage thugs time and time again. They are known to police and, sadly, they are very much known to our communities.

I remember the Buderim grandparents who were accosted by three young teenagers armed with knives. I have raised this in the chamber before because it sticks with me although not nearly as much as it sticks with Mr and Mrs Taylor. They were the victims of a violent home invasion. In that instance, fortunately no-one was seriously harmed because the couple bravely fended them off. Good police work resulted in the young offenders being pinched and initially held to account for their actions before being released on bail the next day and then, after a substandard court process, they were released with a slap on the wrist. That does not reflect the community's expectations. That terrifying incident and the response that followed sums up all of the chaos and crisis under Labor. That was not just a story in the media. Those victims are real people with real scars. The Crisafulli government will always put victims first.

Under the former government, aside from Labor's weakened laws, in my community one of the biggest issues with crime was the lack of police resources. We made a commitment to put more police boots on the ground and that is exactly what we have done. The Crisafulli government has boosted the number of Queensland Police Service frontline officers by 240 in just 200 days. I commend the Minister for Police. There is plenty more work to be done but it is a start in fixing Labor's decade of failure. We are giving the Queensland Police Service the resources they need to tackle crime and we are backing up their hard work with the right laws so the courts can hold young offenders to account for their actions.

The crime statistics show that we are making a difference. This is only the early stages but we are making Queensland safer. There has been a 15.5 per cent reduction in robberies, an 8.5 per cent drop in stolen cars and unlawful entry offences are down by 11½ per cent. Young criminals are finally starting to face consequences for their actions. For a decade they were left to their own devices and they ran rampant through our communities, terrorising streets, homes and businesses, but we will not stand for it. We have backed up our laws with intensive rehabilitation and intervention programs to give young offenders the best chance to turn their lives around, should they wish to take the opportunity. However, we will always put the rights of victims first. We know that there is a long way to go but we will not waver in our pursuit of a safer Queensland.