



Speech By
Bryson Head

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 28 August 2025

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (3.43 pm): I know that many men and women in blue on the front line have been calling for these changes for a long time. Over the last few years when getting around the great electorate of Callide and talking with community members I have heard something needed to change because we were just not getting to where we needed to be to address domestic and family violence in communities. Under Labor, domestic and family violence related calls for service had risen by approximately 218 per cent over the last 10 years, with many victims waiting hours or days for help. This is, quite frankly, appalling and has added significant strain to the Queensland Police Service due to the increasing demand for services.

Domestic and family violence has no place in our society. The Crisafulli government is committed to restoring safety where you live in Queensland for all Queenslanders. This bill prioritises safety and puts victims rights ahead of perpetrators and it is a part of major domestic and family violence reform to provide victims with greater protection sooner. It will enable police to respond faster to domestic and family violence incidents. These changes have been welcomed by many including Lloyd Clarke, Hannah Clarke's father, who said, 'We welcome these new laws coming in. We really think the trackers and the police protection direction will actually put the onus back onto the perpetrator and keep the victims safer.'

This bill provides police officers with additional tools to protect vulnerable people. It enables police to issue a 12-month police protection direction when responding to domestic and family violence. It does not require further court consideration; it has immediate impact and offers protection for victims. This will remove the current need for uniform police to prepare for and attend court proceedings, reducing red tape and fast-tracking protections of victims.

Standard conditions for a police protection direction include that they must be of good behaviour and must not commit domestic violence or organise and encourage others to commit domestic violence. A police protection direction can be issued following an investigation and will require approval from a supervising officer before being implemented. The bill also establishes pathways for the direction to be reviewed once it is issued either by a police review within 28 days after the notice is issued or by a court review at any time within the 12 months that the direction is in place. That is an important and necessary measure to ensure an accused offender has their fundamental right to judicial proceedings, and we certainly support and uphold those rights.

Our police officers do a fantastic job serving and protecting Queenslanders. I thank each and every one of our Queensland police officers stationed throughout this great state. I thank you for your commitment and dedication to upholding our laws and protecting our communities. Thank you to our regional police officers whose role is often wider reaching than traditional police duties. You provide an invaluable service within our local communities and our regional towns are safer and a better place to live because of your service. I note that the men and women in blue in my part of the world on the

Darling Downs are certainly feeling for those involved in the events that happened in Victoria this week, given what they went through with the tragedy at Wieambilla. I place on record: my heart goes out to the family of those officers and the wider police community in respect of that incident.

Through this bill amendment, we see the establishment of legislation to allow courts to pilot monitoring device conditions on high-risk domestic violence offenders with an initial 150 devices. This will require the court to place conditions on the offender that prohibit them from approaching or attempting to approach the aggrieved or named person. The monitoring device conditions are intended to relate directly to these conditions and to deter respondents from the proximity of the aggrieved person or particular locations. This will aid victim protection and alert police to respond when electronic monitors are activated. It is intended that monitoring devices will operate 24/7 and that all alerts will be monitored and responded to. There is a sunset clause of two years after the commencement to ensure a thorough review is conducted of the pilot study before provisions are expanded.

Providing evidence in court can be traumatic for victims of domestic and family violence, so this bill looks to alleviate some of this by allowing evidence to be provided by way of a videorecorded statement taken by a police officer. This bill removes the requirement to take the statement as soon as practicable after the event to which the statement applies, allowing a flexible approach to cater for each individual situation. This video can be taken in a neutral location such as the victim's home to further alleviate some of the stress, discomfort and anxiety that may be experienced, and it will to minimise the oral evidence to be provided in a courtroom. There was evidence from community members and organisations indicating they welcome this change.

This bill reflects the Crisafulli government's continued commitment to restoring safety where you live by putting the rights of the victims ahead of perpetrators. These reforms are just the beginning as we begin to unravel the mess created from a decade of neglect under the former Labor government. It is just how we are getting on with the job of delivering for Queensland.