




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (6.15 pm): I rise to address the cognate debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025. These two important pieces of legislation are about delivering a safer Queensland.

Under the leadership of Premier David Crisafulli, our Liberal National Party government is continuing to deliver the reforms needed to restore confidence, protect communities and ensure victims are prioritised over offenders. I will first address the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, which marks a significant milestone in our state's effort to crack down on knife crime and ensure police have the tools that they need to keep Queenslanders safe.

Jack's Law was born out of a tragedy, with the devastating and senseless loss of a 17-year-old Jack Beasley, who was stabbed to death on the Gold Coast in 2019. Since then, the Beasley family, through the Jack Beasley Foundation, has advocated with enormous courage to push for stronger laws to get bladed weapons off our streets. I want to commend their tireless advocacy, particularly Jack's parents, and their unrelenting determination to ensure that no other family has to endure the heartache that they have suffered.

From the outset, those of us on this side of the House have supported Jack's Law. It was trialled and tested with success. However, unfortunately, under the former Labor government, it was then undermined by unnecessary bureaucracy, red tape and a misguided approach that placed process over outcomes. Instead of empowering our police, the former Labor state government effectively burdened them with complex operational rules and an onerous system. This effectively made it harder, not easier, for Queensland police officers to conduct wandering operations, with events like schoolies, major concerts and community festivals left unprotected simply because the thresholds could not be met.

What Queenslanders saw under the changes by the former Labor government was operational confusion which only discouraged proactive policing. This was not just a policy failing; it was a moral one too. In stark contrast, this legislation by the Liberal National Party state government is—

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member for Cairns, the member is not taking interjections. I will have you sit in silence please.

Dr ROWAN:—taking the right course of action by removing the existing sunset clause and making Jack's Law permanent. This legislation will remove burdensome authorisation requirements for police to act in relevant places, and it introduces a broader framework to allow wandering in public places where there is a legitimate need, backed by criminal intelligence or even event-specific risk factors.

More specifically, clause 10 of this legislation will allow QPS officers to wand without senior authorisation in areas such as safe night precincts and major venues. Clause 11 expands the powers into general public areas, with senior officers authorising their use for up to 12 hours based on clear criteria. This framework ensures that our police are no longer burdened or delayed by process. Instead, they are empowered to respond to real threats whilst at the same time appropriate safeguards remain in place. This includes that wandering must be random, body worn cameras are to be used, training is mandatory and personal details like name, date of birth or ethnicity are not required.

The Liberal National Party state government is not just making Jack's Law permanent; we are making it stronger. This legislation is another example of the fresh start the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government is delivering for Queensland. We are backing our frontline personnel, we are backing our frontline police officers, we are backing communities, and we are keeping our promises to Queenslanders.

In my remaining time, I want to turn briefly to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025. This legislation represents another targeted reform that will make a genuine difference to community safety and ensure the rights of victims are put first. Under the current framework, if Queensland Corrective Services requests an urgent parole suspension and a single board member decides not to suspend, there is no clear legislative mechanism allowing the full Parole Board to review that decision.

In contrast, section 208(2) contains a safeguard for prisoners requiring a full board review of any decision to suspend parole; however, there is no corresponding safeguard to protect the community when an offender remains on parole. This legislation will address this gap by ensuring that the Parole Board must review all decisions made by prescribed board members in response to urgent suspension requests from Queensland Corrective Services, including decisions where a member opts not to suspend a parolee and allows them to remain in the community. This legislation will ensure that the same level of oversight that protects prisoners is also applied to protect the community.

This legislation is needed, and reform must be progressed in order to correct a legislative oversight as well as to ensure that previous board decisions made in good faith are valid and enforceable, providing certainty and consistency for Queenslanders. It is yet another example of the Liberal National Party state government's unwavering commitment to community safety and victim focused justice. Both of these bills deliver the powers our frontline agencies need, close legislative gaps and make it clear that under the Liberal National Party the rights of victims and law-abiding Queenslanders will always come first. As such, I commend the bills to the House.