




Speech By  
**Hon. Daniel Purdie**

**MEMBER FOR NINDERRY**

---

Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2025

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

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (10.16 pm): There are a couple things that have been raised by the previous two speakers on that side that I want to address and correct the record in relation to—mindful that at the conclusion of her contribution the member for McConnel pointed at me and claimed that I was responsible for the youth crime crisis in Queensland.

**An opposition member:** That's not what she said.

**Mr PURDIE:** If that is not what she said. I am happy to look at that. I am not taking offence to it. I was not going to let those opposite absolve themselves of any blame. I want to correct the record because those opposite are talking about our second tranche of the Making Queensland Safer Laws.

Before the election we committed to the people of Queensland that we would introduce our first wave before Christmas and we would continue to give our police tougher laws to drive down crime in Queensland. That is in stark contrast to those opposite when they won government in 2016. Anyone can look at the stats on their phone. The QPS data shows that crime across Queensland in 2012, 2013 and 2014 was trending down. At a time when crime was trending down, the previous government, on winning office, proudly watered down the laws. They did so in 2015, they did so again in 2016, actually voting on both bills that they had tabled in June 2016. They watered down the laws again in 2017. The member who just spoke talked about children in watch houses. Those on this side know what created the children in watch houses crisis. There was an expose on *Four Corners*. Who could forget that?

**Mr Minnikin:** It was a train wreck for the member for Bulimba.

**Mr PURDIE:** It was a train wreck for the former minister for youth justice.

**Mr McDonald:** It was disappointing.

**Mr PURDIE:** Exactly. There were 90 young people being held in the Brisbane City Watch-house and that was as a result of their dire amendments in 2017 that raised the age of a juvenile in Queensland, meaning all 17-year-olds in prisons at that time needed to be transferred into already full youth detention facilities. They watered down the law to get as many young people out of detention facilities and it resulted in 90 children being held in the Brisbane City Watch-house. What they then did in 2019 was table further amendments to make it harder for police to oppose bail for young offenders. The title of the bill was to remove barriers for young people to get bail. Let us not forget it was those opposite in their first bill who removed the breach of bail offence. They closed the Childrens Court and they reinstated detention as a last resort. What we have seen from the statistics, which anyone can look at, is that from 2015 to 2024 crime skyrocketed across Queensland, particularly in regional communities like Townsville and Cairns. I acknowledge the member for Cairns, who is about to make his contribution. Hopefully he will address the doubling of unlawful use of a motor vehicle and break and enter offences in Cairns since he has been the member there.

**Mr McDonald:** Shame! Because of the laws.

**Mr PURDIE:** That is exactly right. We are proud to give our police the tougher laws we committed to delivering.

I heard those opposite talk about the experts. I want to hear about the experts they relied on in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2019 who apparently all said that being tough on crime does not work and we need to water down the laws. I do not have the *Hansard* in front of me because I only just decided to make this contribution, but those opposite, including the ministers, said that all the experts agreed that offenders need to be rehabilitated in community. That is in stark contrast to what the acting Police Commissioner said in the committee hearing the other week. What experts were they listening to when they proudly watered down the laws?

Every step of the way, every time they tabled amendments to water down the laws and remove the powers that the police had to keep communities safe, crime went up and up. The member opposite who just spoke talked about the perception of crime. That is all they were concerned about. How many times did we see senior members from the other side try to attribute the crime crisis in Queensland to a media beat-up? After the tragedy at Alexandra Hills, which we have spoken about in this parliament and I will not mention again, the member opposite who held my position at the time likened the youth crime crisis in Queensland to kids stealing KitKats. That is what the community and the family got from the person who sat in this seat at that time.

In stark contrast, we listen to Queenslanders and we listen to the police. As we said we would do, we tabled tough laws before Christmas. This is the second tranche. I welcome the second tranche because one of the things that we are including in the Making Queensland Safer Laws is a new class of crime for young offenders who chase, ram and try to injure police. I welcome the inclusion of that crime in the second tranche of the Making Queensland Safer Laws. In Townsville, in particular, but we have also seen it in Cairns, on the Gold Coast and elsewhere, for fun or notoriety on social media—who knows—youth offenders have been stealing cars and then hunting and ramming police and that needs to end. We are determined to do that, whether through the Making Queensland Safer Laws or our Making Queensland Safer plan, with more boots on the ground and tougher laws. If we need to, we will continue to toughen the laws and hold those young offenders to account.

I have spoken about 2015 to 2024 when crime reached all-time highs in terms of not only the statistics but also the level of violence, as I just outlined. We have seen a small step in the right direction, but it is not mission accomplished. There is still a lot more work to be done, particularly in regional communities and other communities across Queensland that are still in the grip of Labor's youth crime crisis. After a decade of crime statistics across the board going up, we are seeing some small steps in the right direction. As was articulated earlier tonight, across the state we have seen a small decline in the number of robbery offences, which are down by 15 per cent, or 155 fewer robberies. The number of stolen cars and unlawful use of a motor vehicle offences is down by 8.4 per cent, which is almost 600 fewer stolen cars. Members on this side who have spoken to victims at crime forums know of the financial and emotional impact felt by the owners of stolen cars. In a relatively small amount of time, the number of cars stolen has been reduced by 593 and that is a step in the right direction. We are not popping the champagne. This is not mission accomplished. Crime is still too high and we will continue to do the work. For unlawful entry offences, which essentially mean a break and enter into a home or premises, we have also seen a slight decline across the state.

There will always be spates of crime, which is why we have bolstered the State Flying Squad, the largest rapid response action group of detectives, and made it permanent. We have tripled the size to 58 officers. I was on the radio in Cairns this morning with Macca, and I acknowledge he was mentioned in parliament today. We talked about the State Flying Squad, which has just had another deployment in Cairns, and the work that they have done. I understand they have been in Townsville and we will make more announcements about where they are. We do not like to telegraph where they are going or where they are, but we will certainly share with Queenslanders the results that they are getting. They are bolstering our frontline police.

It was great to be in Townsville not that long ago when we swore in 55 new recruits at one of the biggest swearing-in ceremonies in North Queensland for a long time. Talking about boots on the ground, at the last election those opposite promised 415 extra police across Queensland, but we know that in four years they increased police numbers by 174. In stark contrast, in the 200 days we have been in government, we have increased the number of police on the ground by 240.

We are starting to see another small step in the right direction when it comes to police leaving in droves because we called it out. Through our former colleagues, the ex-police who are in the chamber and all our members, we know that police were leaving in droves because they had had a gutful of fighting a youth crime crisis with both hands tied behind their back. We are giving them back tougher laws and, as with crime statistics, we are seeing a step in the right direction with a reduction in the number of people leaving the Police Service.

Madam Deputy Speaker, thank you for letting me jump the order. While there are other things that I would like to address, in conclusion I call on all members of the House to support the legislation. It has been advised by all of the work we have done across the community, listening to victims and talking to police and to the experts. We need to ensure that our police have all the resources and the tough laws they need to do their job and keep people safe across Queensland.