




Speech By  
**Hon. Daniel Purdie**

**MEMBER FOR NINDERRY**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 June 2025

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

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (8.15 pm), in reply: Firstly, I would like to acknowledge Brett and Belinda Beasley who are here this evening and have been here all day watching this debate. Without this courageous couple, we would not have Jack's Law, but I know Brett and Belinda Beasley wish we did not know their son's name. They wished they never had to advocate for change or for the creation of Jack's Law. They would give anything to have their footy-loving boy back. Jack Beasley was 17—a young man on the cusp of adulthood. All of that was taken away in seconds. Tonight we honour Jack and ensure his legacy lives on.

Before we continue, there are a number of other people I would like to make mention of—four of our finest who were instrumental in the implementation of Jack's Law and by coincidence are here at Parliament House this evening: Acting Assistant Commissioner Rhys Wildman, Inspector Jim Munckton, Senior Sergeant Brad Rix and Senior Sergeant Paul Hunter for their work with the Jack Beasley Foundation, including helping to develop the education campaign around knife crime prevention and ensuring other states were able to adopt these life-saving laws. This awesome foursome was nominated for the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group Damian Leeding Compassion in Policing Award just about an hour ago. In breaking news, they did not win, but they are still winners in the eyes of Queenslanders.

I would like to thank all members who made a contribution to the debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) Amendment Bill 2025 and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025. In relation to Jack's Law, the Crisafulli government is committed to restoring community safety. This government is taking the scourge of knife related violence in our state seriously. Our government understands the urgency of addressing knife crime and the importance of doing it effectively. We are committed to taking decisive and proactive action to combat this issue which will enhance the safety of all Queenslanders.

The bill will improve public safety by allowing our frontline police to proactively use handheld scanners to detect knives and weapons. It will provide a strong deterrent for those who wish to carry dangerous weapons in our community. It will provide efficiencies by streamlining the underlying framework. The bill will remove the onerous authorisation environment in prescribed relevant places within the current framework and remove the requirement to notify a manager or occupier of a premises prior to exercising Jack's Law. The bill will also expand the framework to other public places with an authorisation from a senior officer.

I will now address issues raised by members during the debate. Turning first to those opposite, I note from many contributions that, although they say they support Jack's Law, it is clear they do not. It would not be the first time those opposite did not have the courage to say what they really believe.

Sometimes they employ ruses to get their message across to their supporters while pretending to the wider community that they actually believe something entirely different. Yesterday we saw that strategy in play. The member for Cooper said—

Removing the sunset clause will make this reform permanent. However, also in this bill are a swathe of additional changes to the pilot which do not align with the reviews completed to date, and the government has also decided it will not be evaluating this program.

Shortly after, the member for Mansfield stated—

We also undermine public confidence. In this era where there is a real lack of confidence in politicians, I do not think it helps our cause more generally, and it certainly does not help with regard to the integrity of public policy and achieving desired outcomes. We certainly should be avoiding social experiments at any cost. I am disappointed that the trial has not continued.

These are the true voices of Labor—sowing doubt, criticising process and raising roadblocks to change. These are code words to reassure those on the left who have no commitment to keep communities safe and who prioritise offenders over victims. Just as so many of those opposite opposed our Making Queensland Safer Laws, Labor speaks through its followers, not its leaders. I contrast this behaviour with that of the member for Maiwar, who said that Jack's Law is biased and discriminatory. I strenuously disagree with what he said, but, unlike Labor, at least he has the courage to say what he believes. I also note the words of the member for Miller when he claimed credit for the opposition for this initiative. He said—

I am glad to see the government is finally moving to make Jack's Law permanent but it has to be noted only after sustained pressure from the Labor opposition ...

I direct the honourable member to *Hansard* of 29 March 2023, where my colleague the now Minister for Natural Resources and Mines foreshadowed an amendment to make scanning permanent. The member for Burdekin said that removing the expiration of the trial and making scanning provisions permanent would ensure the Queensland Police Service and the community have certainly and the necessary laws to keep the community safe. Just one day later, the former Labor government, including the member for Miller, rejected the amendment.

Over two years ago the LNP proudly sought to make wandering permanent and in doing so make Queensland safer. Now we know where the honourable member for Miller gets his ideas: from someone else. Labor never attempted this reform throughout its entire period in government, despite what the members say. The Crisafulli government has acted swiftly to correct Labor's lack of action. This is another step towards keeping communities safe—something Labor failed to do.

During this debate, many of those opposite have tried to claim credit for the nation-leading legislation, but the only people we should be thanking are Brett and Belinda Beasley and the Jack Beasley Foundation. On Brisbane radio this morning Brett Beasley said—

It's a no-brainer, and to make Jack's law permanent now ...we're overwhelmed, we really are, we just can't wait.

It is also pleasing to see that the National Retail Association and the Australian Retailers Association have both offered their public support for this bill. With retailers and their employees—often young and unsuspecting members of our communities—being at the forefront of the increasing scourge of knife crime, their support is welcome.

I am equally pleased to report on the support of our police for this initiative. The member for Gladstone might want to take note of what Acting Assistant Commissioner Rhys Wildman said this morning before he stands up soon to move his amendments. If he missed it, I can say that the assistant commissioner hit the nail on the head when he stated—

These laws are very proud in nature in relation to the type of weapon—any edged weapon. It is a very prudent course of action the government has taken to encapsulate all weapons in relation to these laws and not specify individual weapons, because that makes it quite difficult for our frontline police then to actually operationalise. So it is important for us to maintain the laws as they are and make them permanent. It's a fantastic piece of legislation.

This is a ringing endorsement of our approach, and this government will continue to work with our police to make sure Queenslanders are served by the most effective and appropriate laws to keep them safe.

In response to the member for Morayfield's question—I acknowledge his long-term support of the Beasley family—about the government personally issuing every police officer with a handheld scanner, I agree that it is critical that our frontline police are adequately resourced and trained. I am advised that the QPS are satisfied that they have sufficient handheld scanners to operationalise the amendments.

Our government is committed to being transparent and accountable, and we are mindful of maintaining effective safeguards under Jack's Law. Safeguards maintained in the bill include requirements that the police officer must exercise the power in the least invasive way that is practicable in the circumstances, and the police officer may only detain the person for so long as is reasonably

necessary to exercise the power. Additionally, the bill maintains appropriate reporting requirements. The commissioner is required to include handheld scanning information in the QPS annual report, including the number of handheld scanning authorisations issued in the past financial year, the number of persons required to submit to being scanned, the number of weapons detected, the number of times the power to search was exercised, and the number and type of charges resulting from the use of handheld scanners. This bill is testament to our commitment to keeping Queenslanders safe.

In relation to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025, the opposition has suggested that amendments in this bill are not necessary or that these are merely clarifying provisions. This is inaccurate and is an example of Labor putting offenders before victims and the community. The Parole Board bill gives the board the power to review the decision of a prescribed board member after they have refused to suspend a prisoner's parole—a power that was never enshrined in the Corrective Services Act. When a request to suspend a parole order is received under section 208A, it must be decided under section 208B and can only be reviewed under section 208C. That is the way the legislative framework operates. This is a new power. This is not a clarifying amendment.

While the board has the power under section 205 to suspend parole, that is not the same as the power to review a decision made by a prescribed board member. That is why the Crisafulli government is amending the Corrective Services Act to give the Parole Board Queensland the powers it needs to prioritise community safety.

This bill is about the specific circumstances set out in section 208A and 208C. The argument those opposite are making about section 205 is an attempt to distract that they either failed or forgot to include provisions to protect the community. In 2018, section 208B was amended to allow the Parole Board to decide suspension requests alongside prescribed members. The amendment was telling. If the Parole Board could simply rely on its general power to suspend parole under section 205, it would have been unnecessary to amend section 208B in 2018. The law is clear. There is a legislative gap, and the Crisafulli government is closing this gap.

I take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge officers from the Queensland Police Service, in particular Acting Deputy Commissioner Mark Kelly, Acting Assistant Commissioner Rhys Wildman, director Michael Shears, Inspector John Henderson, Manager Anna Papoutsakis, Acting Senior Sergeant Michael Chalmers, senior strategy officer Ashleigh Veivers and strategy officer Shayne Kromberg. I also thank the officers from Queensland Corrective Services, the Public Sector Commission and the Department of Transport and Main Roads. I also wish to acknowledge the staff of the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel for their work on this bill. As referenced in my second reading speech, I will move amendments during consideration in detail of this bill.

In closing, I want to reaffirm the Queensland government's unwavering commitment to addressing knife crime and enhancing community safety and security. We will continue to take firm, proactive and decisive action to protect Queenslanders and build a safer future. I commend the bills to the House.