




Speech By
Janelle Poole

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2025

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

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (3.55 pm): I rise on behalf of the Mundingburra electorate to speak in support of the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025. Before I start, I would like to give my thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers. We are in the middle of National Volunteer Week so I acknowledge our wonderful SES volunteers. Today is Wear Orange Wednesday so I say a big thank you to them.

As members know, my home town is Townsville. I was born in Townsville, was raised in Townsville, went to primary school in Townsville and went to high school in Townsville. I have loved living in Townsville. My children have grown up in Townsville and went to school in Townsville. Sadly, Townsville is now known as 'Crimsville'. We live in the crime capital of Queensland—a title that we have had for 10 years as a result of Labor's weakening of the youth justice laws. Our community never asked for this. We never wanted this title and we are not deserving of this title. Our government is doing everything we can to ensure that we are no longer known by this title or wear this crown.

We are implementing the Making Queensland Safer plan, and the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025 is part of that plan. This bill expands section 175A of the Youth Justice Act 1992 to include an additional 20 serious offences that can attract adult penalties. Some of those 20 additional offences to be included are arson, torture, aggravated attempted robbery, rape and attempted murder.

This bill will ensure youth offenders who commit serious crimes—including sexual offences, violent offences and offences that cause fear in the community—can face serious consequences for their actions. We committed to appointing an expert legal panel to advise on the next tranche of laws, and we have delivered on that promise. These offences are based on those recommendations. I would like to personally thank the panel for their work, and we are now acting on their advice like we promised. The panel will continue their review of other offences—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Mundingburra referred to advice received from the Expert Legal Panel. I presume that advice she is citing is in documented form. Therefore, in accordance with standing order 30, I move—

That the document read or cited by the Member for Mundingburra be tabled.

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): One moment, member for Maroochydore, I will come to you, but I would like to seek some advice from the Clerk first. I will take this advice in silence from all sides, please. Member for Maroochydore, I know you have a point of order and I am happy to hear it, however the motion is one that was put without notice or debate. That being the case, under the standing orders, the Manager of Opposition Business has moved a motion which needs to be put without debate.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

AYES, 34:

ALP, 34—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

NOES, 53:

LNP, 51—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

KAP, 2—Dametto, Knuth.

Resolved in the negative.



Mrs POOLE: This is the second tranche of the Making Queensland Safer Laws. We are starting to see green shoots, with small decreases in key offending across the state since Adult Crime, Adult Time was first introduced. These green shoots have been seen firsthand in Townsville where we had a defence solicitor say that under Labor's weakened Youth Justice Act a juvenile received a sentence of six months for an unlawful use of a motor vehicle; under the Crisafulli LNP government's Adult Crime, Adult Time, he received 18 months.

There is still a long way to go, and that is what this bill is about. We know it will take time to reverse Labor's decade of youth crime chaos and crisis, but we remain committed to restoring safety in Mundingburra and all of Townsville.

With 28 years of service to the Townsville community as a proud member of the Queensland Police Service, I have seen firsthand the frustrations of our police officers on the frontline who have to deal with a repeat juvenile offender crisis created through Labor's weakening of the youth crime laws a decade ago. Our police know that they now have a government that has their back, giving them the laws, the resources and the boots on the ground that they have desperately been crying out for.

Queenslanders deserve to feel safe in their homes, their workplaces and out in their communities, but they do not. On 26 October, Queenslanders asked for tougher laws and they gave the Crisafulli LNP government a clear mandate to deliver tough laws that deal with the hardcore recidivist offenders—the untouchables. Those opposite created this generation of untouchables. Those opposite will now watch us clean up the youth crime mess created by the former, shambolic Labor government. We are making the necessary changes after Labor created a generation of serious repeat offenders.

Labor has always put the rights of offenders before the rights of victims. To those opposite, I say that with or without you we are going to be passing these laws and there will be more changes to come in the future. You need to decide once and for all whether you are on the side of the victims or on the side of the criminal thugs—the untouchables that you created.

To my community in Mundingburra, I know that you still do not feel safe because of Labor's creation of a generation of youth criminals. I know you are frustrated and you feel let down. Crime rates in Mundingburra and across Townsville are still too high, but please know I hear you and this government hears you. We will pass this legislation, but our work is not done. There will be more changes and we will not stop until we can make our community a safer place. We will continue to put the rights of victims before offenders and we will restore safety where you live. I commend this bill to House.