




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (6.21 pm): I rise to speak in support of this cognate debate on two important pieces of legislation: the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025—widely known as Jack's Law—and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025. Although they deal with separate elements of our criminal justice system, they are united in purpose, which is strengthening the integrity and responsiveness of law enforcement and parole. Let me begin with Jack's Law.

This bill is named in memory of Jack Beasley, a 17-year-old Queenslanders whose life was tragically cut short by a senseless act of knife violence in 2019. Jack's death shook our state, but his parents, Brett and Belinda Beasley, have transformed that tragedy into a force for good. Through the Jack Beasley Foundation they have been tireless advocates for awareness, advocacy, education and reform. Jack's Law will make permanent the wandering initiative that was initiated on the Gold Coast, empowering police to use handheld metal detectors to search individuals for knives and weapons in safe night precincts, on public transport and in transport hubs.

This is not about arbitrary searches or fearmongering; it is about evidence-based, community backed preventive policing. The trial saw over 26,000 wandering interactions, resulting in the confiscation of more than 400 dangerous weapons, including knives, screwdrivers and knuckledusters. That is 400 potential tragedies averted; that is 400 reasons to act. In my electorate of Lytton, safety is at the heart of our community life. Whether it is families enjoying a night at Manly Harbour Village, young people gathering on the Wynnum Esplanade or commuters using the Wynnum and Cannon Hill train stations, people want to feel safe and they should feel safe.

Jack's Law will help our local police keep knives off our streets and out of our night-life precincts. This bill gives our police a tool that works, and it does so with clear safeguards. Wandering will be conducted with body worn camera oversight, supported by training and operational guidelines, and subject to reporting and independent review after two years. The Community Support and Services Committee, which examined the bill, recommended that it be passed. In public hearings they heard directly from law enforcement and safety experts. The Queensland Police Union called it one of the most effective powers they have had to reduce knife crime. This is a powerful endorsement.

The Beasleys have worked with government since their loss and they continue to work with QPS, educating young people to drive home the message how one wrong decision can change or end lives and the impact these decisions have on families and communities. That is why it is so disappointing to hear the LNP today diminish the nonpartisan work the Beasleys have done with both sides of the House. They have worked so hard. I would also particularly like to acknowledge the great work of the former police minister, the member for Morayfield, and his advocacy for the Beasley family. I acknowledge that work and the work that his departments have done.

Further, I want to briefly address our proposed amendment with regard to including machetes in this piece of legislation. Sadly, those opposite are calling the proposed amendments a 'stunt' and a 'sham'. The member for Nicklin made those statements on more than one occasion. I wonder how the many victims of machete crime would feel. For the Beasleys to have suffered such immense tragedy is completely incomprehensible, yet this family chose to make sure that no other family would experience such heartbreaking loss. I acknowledge and commend the wonderful work they have done with the previous Labor government and the LNP government, because it is a nonpartisan piece of legislation that has to work.

I would like to talk about the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill. This addresses the decision-making powers of the Parole Board. The bill clarifies that the board has the power to review decisions made by individual prescribed board members, including decisions not to suspend a parole order. Under the Corrective Services Act 2006, a single board member can suspend parole—for example, if a parolee is believed to pose an unacceptable risk or is planning to abscond. These decisions are then reviewed within two business days by the full board under section 208C. The legislation does not explicitly provide for the review of non-suspension decisions. However, since 2022 the board has operated under the principle of reviewing all individual decisions for consistency and safety. In fact, in the last financial year alone over 5,900 suspension requests were made. This bill inserts a clear clause into section 208C confirming the power to review all decisions, and it affirms all decisions made under this practice. Together, these two bills reflect a commitment to public safety, whether it is preventing knife crime before it occurs or ensuring that parole decisions are made with full accountability and transparency. Our proposed amendment would protect the community from machetes.

In Jack's memory and in honour of the work that his family has done, police continue to be empowered with tools that can, and have, saved lives. This Parole Board amendment will ensure that every Parole Board decision, especially those involving a risk to the public, can be scrutinised, reviewed and corrected where necessary. I support these reforms and our amendment.

I again thank the Beasley family on behalf of all Queenslanders and my constituents in Lytton. Their courage is reshaping how we protect people in Queensland. To our hardworking Queensland police officers, Parole Board members and Queensland Corrective Services staff I say: this bill supports the consistency and fairness you strive for each and every day. I commend both bills to the House.