




Speech By  
**Lance McCallum**

**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2025

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

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (9.12 pm): The honourable member for Southport finished his speech by talking about the election and the commitment the LNP government gave to the Queensland people during the election to fix youth crime by Christmas. That was the commitment that was given to the people of Queensland by this government last year during the election. That was the commitment from the now Premier. It was a commitment that is now a broken promise. During the election they promised the people they would fix youth crime by Christmas. The Premier said he had the laws in his drawer ready to go, and that is why he gave a commitment to the people of Queensland that they would be passed by Christmas.

The record will show that there were some laws passed by Christmas, but, unfortunately, those laws were flawed. They were so flawed that you could drive a stolen car through the gaps in them. That is why we are back here a matter of months later with a government that is scrambling and trying to patch up the holes that exist in their signature laws which they brought into this parliament before Christmas.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): One moment, member for Bundamba. I will remind the chamber to address comments through the chair so we can hear everybody speak.

**Mr McCALLUM:** Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. It is worth remembering that when the first tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time—

**Mr Molhoek** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** One moment, member for Bundamba. Member for Southport, I have just asked everybody to address the chair if they have any comments.

**Mr McCALLUM:** I recall that in the member for Southport's contribution he waxed lyrical—to use his term—about how laws are an evolving and fluid situation. There are unforeseen circumstances that might pop up and governments need to amend laws and respond. He gave an example of vapes. Nobody knew that vapes were coming along when it comes to health care. What about attempted murder? That was one of the offences that was not in the first tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time. Did the government know about that? Did the honourable member for Southport know about attempted murder as an offence in Queensland? Of course they did, but it was not included in the first tranche of laws. What an absolute nonsense to have a member of the government stand up and put forward a weak argument that bears no relation to what is happening out in our communities. It does not bear any relation to the reality of the flawed laws that were brought forward by this government, which is now trying to scramble and fix their own mess. They did not listen to advice from so many stakeholders with the first tranche. They rushed it through. They did not want to listen because they knew better. Now it

turns out that there are enormous problems with their signature laws. It turns out they broke their promise to Queenslanders that they would fix the youth crime—in their words—crisis before Christmas. So here we are, only a matter of months later.

The first tranche of this legislation was fast-tracked through the committee process. They gave stakeholders no time whatsoever to give calm, methodical and considered advice. They did not want to hear it; they knew better. Now here we are. The Crisafulli government has rushed to introduce a six-page bill to fix a single number that could have been introduced in the 2024 bill on youth justice. They have no legislative agenda, so they need to keep bringing through bills that really lack substance. They have introduced amendments in unrelated bills around fixing up mistakes in the first bill. This bill represents a second major change to their signature laws which they said they had drafted, ready to go, that were going to be effective. That has turned out to not be the case. This is the fourth time since December 2024 we are debating changes to the Youth Justice Act.

Stakeholders and the opposition told them at the time to stop, slow down, listen and take some feedback, but they did not want to do that. They refused; they were wilfully ignorant, wilfully denying, ignoring engagement and not listening to people. This is not a government that listens; this is a government that is taking autocratic action because it is a government that thinks it knows better than the Queensland community.

I implore the government to be collaborative. If they cannot get over being partisan in this House when it comes to legislation, if they cannot get over being partisan when it comes to an issue like youth justice, then at least listen to stakeholders and experts. Do not shout down voices that you do not agree with. Do not listen to your own echo chamber. Please, try and legislate in a manner that takes in genuine feedback from people who are very passionate about making sure that Queensland has fit-for-purpose laws that will actually deliver improved outcomes in the communities of the 93 electorates that we represent in this House. I know that my Bundamba community would certainly appreciate that. I am here as their voice to ask on their behalf for this government to listen to feedback and not rush important laws and to keep the government to account.

We have heard a lot of previous speakers talk about the government's refusal to release the advice from the expert panel that has informed the 20 offences that are in this bill. That is, again, an egregious broken promise from the government, which promised Queenslanders they would govern with integrity, with transparency—

**Mr Hunt:** Tick. Tick.

**Mr McCALLUM:**—and with accountability.

**Mr Hunt:** Tick.

**Mr McCALLUM:** No, I take the interjection from the member for whoever that is. It is not a tick; it is a cross. It is an absolute failure that the Crisafulli LNP government will be relying on advice from an expert panel—panelbeaters—to fix up the hole, to bodgie up the hole that is in this legislation. They promised people that they would govern with openness and integrity, yet they will not release the advice they are relying on for the 20 offences that are included in this bill. We have already heard speakers from the government talking about the next tranche. How many times can they get it wrong? Government speakers have confirmed that they did not get it right the first time. They know they have not got it right this time so, hold their beer, they are going to have at least a third go. Honestly, it is very troubling that what we have here is a government—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I would ask the Attorney-General to not shout across the chamber.

**Mr McCALLUM:** I will finish my contribution by saying that the government have lost their mandate when it comes to Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. Their mandate ended with the first tranche of laws that they botched. They said they had it sorted. They brought forward laws and they promised Queenslanders that they would fix youth crime. They have failed. They do not have a mandate and they stand condemned for their failure.