




Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2025

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

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (8.20 pm): Last week I was on Greenbank Road on the south side of Everleigh Estate and came across a scene of such violence that unfortunately our police see all too often—that is, a car that had in all probability been stolen and taken at such force through the intersection of Teviot Road and Greenbank Road that it had rolled multiple times, scattering pieces. We know that this continues to happen under the LNP, even though—

Mr Stevens interjected.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr POWER: I want to take this seriously, member for Mermaid Beach. It was an act of extreme violence that the car itself was burnt out.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Through the chair, member for Logan.

Mr POWER: My apologies, Mr Deputy Speaker. That was a reminder that this is what we are fighting against. That car was probably someone's pride and joy but now is a twisted wreck of metal burnt beyond recognition. This is serious. The consequences of what we do here are serious.

The people of Logan are very genuine about this. They know that crime happens. They know that there is a danger that their families will be exposed to crime and violence. They want people to be genuine about this and to talk to them about the real concerns that they have. They recognise the situation mentioned by the member for Nicklin when he spoke about his training officer suggesting that many young people engage in things where, if they were caught, they could not proceed to be a police officer or take some other responsible role in the community. We know that we must steer young people away from those things. That is what Logan people want. They want people to have a fair go, but they also want there to be consequences.

I recognise that at the last election this was something that was presented to the people of Queensland, and especially in Logan, and that they wanted those consequences to be more real. That is why we want to give it a fair go too, but we will not be uncritical and will carefully examine both the way it was approached and the consequences of it. I urge those who take this issue seriously to seriously consider our amendments. I also want to recognise the Logan police, whether that is the Crestmead station, which the member for Woodridge and I share; the Logan Village station, which the member for Jordan and I share; or the Browns Plains station and the fantastic new station at Logan Village, the Yarrabilba station, which I want to see expanded into a full station. They are hardworking people. They know that some of the people that they deal with have been damaged by others—in some cases beyond repair—and they struggle to be both fair to the people whom they meet and to ensure that the law is upheld. I want to recognise them because so often we forget that they are at the sharp point as the agents who enforce the laws that we put in place.

Let us speak to those laws. On 7 July 2024 the LNP put forward in a press conference Adult Crime, Adult Time. We were told at that point that the law was already developed—that is, that the crimes had been identified and that the legislation had already been drawn up. This was further confirmed by the Premier at a debate. He claimed that he had in his hand the fully drafted legislation which should have meant that there was an ability for community groups, victims groups and the public to say, 'Show us that legislation before we vote.' We know that, cynically, that did not happen. This might be critical, but I have doubts that that document actually existed at that time. I think that that was a dishonest thing said to the people of Queensland in that it did not exist before the election. Why do I say that? I want to go through the evidence.

In the first week of parliament we called for the legislation to be tabled in this parliament because we knew that those opposite had made an obligation. Indeed, they changed the sitting of the parliament in order to pass this legislation. We said, 'Bring it forward and put it on the table early so we don't have to engage immediately in the committee process. We can have it on the table so that everyone can see it,' just as many draft pieces of legislation are put forward. But, no, mysteriously it could not be presented. It could not be put forward for examination. Finally when it was put forward there was a truncated process with very little examination. Within about five minutes the hardworking people on our team as well as many victims groups identified that things such as rape and attempted murder were not part of the original legislation, but by this point an arrogant and out-of-control LNP could not admit its mistake and could not say, 'Well, we'll delay it for a few months to get it right.' It did not include these offences in the legislation and instead had to pretend that missing all of these different criminal acts was part of its plan. No-one in this House believes that. No-one believes that it had the legislation prepared and ready. No-one believes that the ink on the bill was dry as it was presented to this House for its first reading. We all know that, so we know that this was presented dishonestly right from the beginning. That is not what Logan people want. They wanted those opposite to give it a fair go, they wanted them to be open about it and they wanted them to talk about the difficulties and some of the messiness of it. They did not want those opposite to do it the way that they did it, so that was disappointing.

I especially want to emphasise the fact that those other offences were not in that bill and so those opposite have to come back here before us today to include them. The member for Woodridge called it the repair bill, but really it was more like a botched job in that something that was incomplete had to be papered over. Those opposite then had to make up a process and put in place what they called the legal expert committee. With great fanfare that committee produced a report and the youth justice minister touted that report as having very strong information that was going to inform the new bill. This was all built up. We are very passionate about reports examining youth justice and looking for solutions, so we said, 'Okay, great. Give us the report,' but of course it was not given and then we learnt that it could not be given. We have now learnt that, even though this legislation was drawn up, the Minister for Youth Justice has revealed that it is all incomplete and that is the reason why the government cannot release the report that apparently informed cabinet that drew up the very legislation that we are debating tonight. It was incomplete. Again, call me cynical, but I doubt this too, and that is why we have our amendments.

The first one is to ensure that the Expert Legal Panel's report is tabled in this place. We want to see it put forward warts and all. We know it is going to be imperfect. We now know it is incomplete. We know it might have some recommendations those opposite did not want or recommendations that it did want but does not want now, but be transparent with the people of Logan because that is what they expect.

We also want data. If those opposite are to be held to account, publish the data as it should be according to the amendments because that actually gives us a baseline. The only reason they do not want to do that is they are hiding something. The people of Logan think that is not on. The other thing I found disappointing is how political people on the other side were about this. We saw the member for Ninderry say that he wanted to jag a few seats—he wanted to win seats on this. That was his priority when it came to youth justice. Serious crimes that hurt people were described as a non-event. We on this side take it seriously—

(Time expired)