




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.52 pm): There must be no worse feeling than getting a call late at night, or at any time of the day, to inform you that your child has been the victim of a random knife attack. I recognise Brett and Belinda Beasley. They have endured the unimaginable. In their pain and grief, they have sought to make it less likely that that call comes to another family. Jack's loss matters not only to his family and friends but also to the whole of Queensland through the laws passed originally by the member for Morayfield and these laws, which build on them. I thought of Jack and the Beasleys—and I also thought of my own son who is entering that age—when passing those laws for the first, the second and now the third time. When we think of Jack Beasley we think of our own families.

Recently, a group of high school students asked me what law I was most proud to be closely involved in. I think the member for Morayfield, through his work as police minister, should rightfully be extremely proud of this one. I do not know if it is the bill that he is most proud of but, having worked so closely with Brett and Belinda Beasley, he has a right to think that he made a difference in this place and has made Queenslanders safer.

When he was the police minister, Mark Ryan built the evidence and, very importantly, he did that to build community support. I also recognise the police who have used these powers carefully and judiciously to build community support. I note that police officers often approach members of the public who they do not believe have in any way committed a crime. Indeed, they have no suspicion that they are committing or have committed a crime. That is why it is so important to do as the former police minister, the member for Morayfield, did when he ensured that police officers were trained to explain the laws to the community and to build community support. They did that steadily, first targeting major events and then expanding into more areas as we built understanding and support. That was the right thing to do to ensure that these laws are sustained for the long term. The community saw the police acting judiciously and professionally and they saw the results that we are getting. Tonight, when we make these laws permanent, we are building on the work of the former police minister and we can do that because of community support.

I want to talk about this in the local context. The senior sergeant and officer in charge of the Browns Plains Police Station, Sergeant Cordner, regularly directs police officers to use wandering powers in Browns Plains at Grand Plaza and at the bus station. He said that when they first started wandering they regularly detected knives but now, as word has got out that the police are out there to detect knives, they are detecting fewer knives. That is the ultimate triumph: not the 1,058 knives taken off the streets, but the thousands more that are not taken out at all. Our goal is to actually drive the habit of knife carrying off the streets of Logan and all the streets of Queensland. As many have done, I note that the police have carefully and judiciously built community support and understanding through education and that is spreading across our country. This is not just about the knives we detect; it is about the knives that are not picked up and taken out by a young person.

A knife stabbing can happen in a second. Sometimes it can happen in a moment of such little thought that the enormous consequences for both individuals and, indeed, their families can mean lives broken and changed within a second. By using non-invasive wand technology to detect knives, we can make a difference.

In the committee hearing, the Police Union said that on some occasions weapons were used to cause alarm. As someone from the Police Union said, nothing could be more terrifying than using a machete in such a manner as to cause fear. Rather than waiting for a gang or individual to use a machete on Queensland streets, today we have an opportunity to act. The current police minister has the opportunity to help Queenslanders to avoid that, but he has decided that the Victorian Labor government is too supportive of victims and, instead, wants himself and the LNP to be soft on those who go armed with machetes to cause fear. Startlingly, he has said—

Labor has made the fatal mistake of thinking that laws to combat crime exist in a vacuum.

We know that there are some criminals in Queensland who might copy the criminal intimidation and attacks we have seen in Victoria. Surely he should realise that? Instead of standing with victims, the police minister simply says, 'We are different.' I table a press release titled 'Enough is enough: Immediate ban on machetes needed after weekend of violence'. The Victorian Liberals get it. The minister has positioned himself not just to the extreme left of the Victorian Allan Labor government; he is in fact on a unity ticket with the extreme left of the Victorian Greens political party. That is where he wants to position himself and the LNP.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 10 June 2025, by the member for Caulfield, Mr David Southwick, titled 'Enough is enough: Immediate ban on machetes needed after weekend of violence', relating to machete attacks in Victoria [608](#).

I hate to think what it might take for the police minister, the member for Ninderry, to take action and leave his cosy little home next to the Victorian Greens. Perhaps I misspoke because even the Victorian Greens have moved amendments to take some action on machetes, but in Queensland the LNP and the police minister do nothing. Why? Because they say, 'We are different.'

I want to address all members in this chamber, especially those on the backbench. I think that some of those members get it, so there must be pressure on the police minister to take action. The member for Scenic Rim said that we must put community safety first. He gets it. No doubt he is asking why we are not taking action on machetes. Is it just because it was our idea? Queensland is not that different. We know that people will see what has happened in Victoria and may seek to copy that. This is our opportunity to take action. Do not believe the police minister, who thinks that somehow Queensland is immune and different.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): The member is not taking interjections. Could we have quiet, please.

Mr POWER: We made these laws and we garnered community support by introducing them carefully and judiciously, by showing that they can make a difference. Now we are putting forward another positive proposal, this time from the shadow police minister, the member for Gladstone. Action must be taken now. I urge all those on the backbench to tell the police minister, 'Don't stand with the Victorian Greens; stand up for Queenslanders and community safety.'