




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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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 BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (8.04 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the other piece of legislation relating to corrective services. I want to focus on the permanent Jack's Law part of the bill. There has certainly been a lot of fulsome debate tonight. I will not go into too much of the specifics of the bill, mainly because I just want to use my contribution as a thankyou message to the Beasley family.

It was Friday, 13 December and Jack was enjoying a good night out with his friends when a moment of absolute madness cut Jack's life short. No parent would ever want to outlive their children, especially due to an action which was completely and utterly senseless. The Beasley family have channelled their grief into meaningful change so that no other family will have to go through the same grief. Therefore, I thank the Beasley family—Brett, Belinda and Jack's brother, Mitch—for their strength and their absolute dedication in fighting for fundamental change, and that change is to be made permanent here tonight.

The Beasley family could not do it alone. We have a wonderful community on the northern Gold Coast that got around the Beasley family to support them in their time of need. That was especially so for the Helensvale Hornets Junior Rugby League Club, Jack's old Rugby League club. As the saying goes, once a Hornet, always a Hornet. I would like to also thank people like Wayne and Leanne from the Hornets club for all their hard work over many years. I have come to know them very well and they are good friends. They are very passionate about this cause.

Every year the Beasley family organise a walk in the electorate of Theodore at Damian Leeding Memorial Park and every year we put on Jack's favourite colour, green, and walk around that lake with the Beasley family. I just want to say that every year Brett is getting a faster lap time, so good on him for doing all that extra exercise getting around that lake. It highlights how important this is for my local community to remember what actually happened on that senseless night and to prevent it from happening again. I thank the Beasley family, Brett and Belinda, for participating in programs at our local schools and trying to educate the next generation, but a lot more needs to be done.

A little while back I was doing my community roadside and a teacher stopped—this was on a Saturday—to have a chat to me. We were talking about the Beasleys and knife crime and a group of young people happened to walk past. We asked those individuals if they had ever carried a weapon, a knife or a sharp object. Unfortunately, they admitted they had, because they felt they needed it for self-defence. We do have a long way to go, and I thank the Beasley family for what they are doing in our community in trying to make it a safer community for all. As I said, there is a long way to go.

These amendments tonight will make Jack's Law permanent by removing the sunset clause, which was set to expire on 30 October 2026. It also allows police officers to use handheld scanners in relevant places without obtaining the authority of a senior officer. It also expands the use of handheld scanners in non-relevant areas. Police officers can use handheld scanners in other areas when a senior officer gives authority. This will give far better coverage and, therefore, increase community safety.

I again say to the Beasley family that, whilst I am devastated for your loss, I thank you for your strength and how you have channelled your grief into something good for our community. It is a testament to Brett and Belinda. I have to say that Brett is a bit of a larrikin and I could certainly see that Jack would have been a bit of a larrikin too. Thank you to the Beasley family for all of this hard work in terms of their dedication to this wonderful cause.