




Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**

**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 June 2025

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

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (4.36 pm): I intend to make a contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which is part of the cognate debate this afternoon. I will start with the position that, as society has changed, as legislators we need to make sure that we meet the challenges in society. We need to make sure that we meet the challenges in terms of what we provide our Police Service to deal with crime in this state.

I want to go back to the time when my father was a police officer. I can recall him coming home not wearing a weapon on him. He kept his .22 pistol in a bag. Conversely, now when you go to a police station or when you see police on the streets—and I was at the Ferny Grove Police Station last week presenting the station with a Queensland flag—you see them in their full kit. They wear their armoured vests and they have their tasers—

**Mr Stevens:** Glocks.

**Mr FURNER:**—their glocks and their batons—all the equipment they have in their vests and on their belts. On a lot of occasions in the last decade, the Labor government provided many of the advanced types of equipment for police officers. I take on board the committee's views and acknowledge the LNP government for accepting a great Labor initiative in Jack's Law. That is what we are doing here today. There should be no partisan view in this debate. We should be bipartisan across the chamber in supporting the good policy that we introduced when we were in government to make sure that we protect our citizens and that we give police the powers they need to make sure they can do their duty in safe night precincts or public places. They are so proud, efficient and experienced in conducting their roles.

I commend our previous minister, the member for Morayfield, for his initiative and also thank our then government and cabinet for bringing that law forward in the last government. It is groundbreaking and we have seen it adopted in other states. The Queensland Police Service seized 350 weapons in the first six months of operation of Jack's Law. More than 2,900 handheld scanner operations have been conducted since 30 March 2023, when the legislation was extended and expanded to include safe night precincts, public transport and transport hubs. During those operations, more than 31,800 people have been scanned, resulting in 904 people being charged with almost 1,600 offences, mostly related to weapon and drug matters.

I also extend my appreciation for the advocacy of the Jack Beasley Foundation and Brett and Belinda Beasley in bringing forward their ideas—which have now spread around the nation—to honour the unfortunate death of their son Jack. It is a shame that at times we have to act as a result of tragic circumstances such as a homicide, but we can use it as an opportunity to make change. That is the

situation we face, and that is why we as legislators should be proud of making these changes to extend the Labor laws that were introduced in the last government. When I was in Melbourne visiting my son and his family last New Year's Eve, I saw police wand people at the train station. No doubt that is an example of what we see in other states. Notwithstanding the view of the opposition, the amendment we will be debating later this evening or tomorrow, depending on how we get through this, is a sensible amendment. It is to ban the purchase or sale of machetes in Queensland. I urge the government to consider that amendment in detail. It is an example of what can be adopted so that people cannot purchase these types of weapons.

During their appearance at the committee hearing, the Queensland Police Union of Employees indicated that it has been well received by Queenslanders and once again they reiterated it has been accepted in other states. At the hearing, the Jack Beasley Foundation also expressed its strong support for the amendments, describing Queensland's Jack's Law as 'nation-leading' laws. There is no doubt that is the case, as we have seen in the other states and territories where it has been adopted. The Queensland Police Service indicated that in their experience the public response to wandings has been overwhelmingly positive. One officer with extensive experience in wand operations shared his experience with the committee. He explained that over his 20 years of service he had wanded over 6,000 people, 90 per cent of whom thanked him afterwards. In total, out of 130,000 wandings by the Queensland Police Service, there have only been two complaints. I think that is an example of how this is widespread and accepted throughout our society.

People accept it as a matter of course. You only need to reflect on the procedure when you go through airports—we have been doing it for years. People go through a scanning device and they are wanded on many occasions. People take it for granted. It is normal when you travel throughout the nation or internationally. Over time this will not be an encumbrance on people who travel on public transport. It is a great Labor initiative that we introduced in our last term of government. It has been accepted by the LNP government and put into legislation for the future prosperity of our communities.

I look forward to continuing my engagement with the police, whether it be through the Ferny Grove Police Station or in some cases with the Queensland Police Union of Employees, where I was proudly an industrial officer for nearly four years. It is a great union that represents our men and women in blue.

We should sensibly look at the amendment put forward by the member for Gladstone. It is a thoroughly thought out amendment that will make sure we limit the possibility of people throughout our state carrying machetes. It should be considered and accepted by the Minister for Police.