




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

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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 HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (12.16 pm): As Chair of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, I rise today to strongly support the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This is a critical reform—one that delivers on the Crisafulli LNP government's promise to restore community safety, support our frontline police and make permanent one of the most effective tools in the fight against knife crime: Jack's Law.

In my area of Nicklin I recently conducted a community survey and, with over 300 responses, community safety is still the biggest concern raised, followed closely by cost of living. I am proud to be a part of a Crisafulli LNP government that is taking strong action to make our community safer. It will take some time to turn around Labor's generation of failure, but we are taking on the challenge and this bill is another important part of our reform work.

Jack Beasley was just 17 years old when his life was taken in a random, senseless act of violence on the Gold Coast. His death shocked Queensland, but what followed—the bravery, the purpose and the determination of Brett and Belinda Beasley—continues to inspire this parliament and the people of this state. The Jack Beasley Foundation has not just campaigned for tougher laws; it has changed the conversation about youth violence and community safety and it has educated thousands of young people, empowered communities and turned heartbreak into hope. Their One Moment program is saving lives in classrooms, just as Jack's Law is saving lives on our streets.

The trial of Jack's Law began in 2021. Over time, it has demonstrated its worth. From April 2023 to May 2025, more than 115,000 individuals were wanded, over 1,100 weapons seized and over 3,000 charges laid. These are not just statistics; these are lives protected. However, despite this success, the former Labor government inexplicably chose to undermine it.

In April 2023, Labor imposed an unnecessarily complex and bureaucratic framework on police, requiring officers to meet an evidentiary test and a subjective assessment before operations could even begin. Schoolies events, music festivals and Supercars weekends—high-risk environments where knife detection is most needed—were excluded due to arbitrary thresholds. The result was fewer operations, reduced police confidence and missed opportunities to prevent violence.

Labor's so-called reforms were roadblocks, plain and simple. The former government's obsession with red tape dissuaded police from using the very powers we had asked them to deploy. It was a continuation of their soft-on-crime approach—one that saw the youth crime crisis spiral out of control on their watch.

The evidence provided to our committee was clear. Senior officers described the system as ‘a burden’. Some had to plan operations weeks in advance due to the administrative workload. The Queensland Police Commissioned Officers Union said it best, stating—

It is logical and refreshing to see the cutting of red tape and duplication of administrative arrangements.

That is exactly what this bill does.

The bill removes the sunset clause and makes Jack’s Law permanent. It empowers police to use handheld scanners in relevant places—safe night precincts, public transport hubs and retail centres—without first requiring that authorisation. For public places beyond those, officers can still seek approval but under a streamlined, evidence-based framework. Gone are the arbitrary six-month crime thresholds. In their place, authorisation may consider real-world intelligence such as event crowd size, crime patterns and previous scanning outcomes. These are the practical tools that police have asked for. This is the legislation they deserve.

Importantly, the bill maintains crucial safeguards. Police must act with fairness, scan on a random basis and always use body worn cameras. Training is mandatory. Police will not collect personal information from individuals scanned. Authorisations for public places are capped at 12 hours, requiring renewal if extended. This is a considered, balanced and responsible framework.

The Beasley family have been relentless in their advocacy. Their work is recognised in this legislation and respected across this House. Belinda Beasley, despite the emotional toll it brings, has appeared before multiple parliamentary committees, reliving the most painful moments of her life so that others might be spared. That is strength. That is service. She said during our inquiry—

Jack’s Law is allowing weapons to be taken off the streets, and we believe every weapon off the street is a potential life saved. These laws must keep moving forward. With the proposed changes, this will only be enhanced.

That quote is not just a sentiment; it is a call to action.

I also want to directly address the Labor opposition’s proposed amendment to ban machetes. It is a stunt, poorly thought out, legally unnecessary and logistically unenforceable. Carrying a machete in a public place is already illegal under the Weapons Act. We already have aggravated penalties under the Criminal Code. Labor’s amendment is about headlines, not about solutions.

Worse, their proposal ignores regional Queenslanders—farmers and primary producers—who use machetes as essential tools. Unlike Victoria, where similar bans have been a disaster, Queensland has already acted with smart, enforceable laws, including Jack’s Law. We do not need Melbourne-style chaos here. We need real leadership, and that is what this bill provides.

To Queenslanders watching today, this bill is about your safety. It is about restoring trust. It is about putting victims first—not offenders, not bureaucratic delays, not the politics of excuse. The LNP is delivering legislation that works, and we are doing it with the voices of police, victims and communities ringing in our ears.

Brett and Belinda, thank you. Your strength has changed our state for the better. Your advocacy is proof that from the darkest places hope can grow. As a father, as a community leader and as a legislator, I honour your courage. In Belinda’s words—

Every time a weapon is taken off the streets, a life might be saved. Every time a young person makes the decision not to carry, that’s Jack’s legacy.

I commend the bills to the House.