




Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**

**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 April 2025

**YOUTH JUSTICE (MONITORING DEVICES) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (8.26 pm): At the outset, I thank the minister, the member for Currumbin, for all that she has done in this space so far and all that she is going to be doing in this space going forward from here to resolve the issues of the youth crime crisis brought upon us, the people of Queensland, by 10 years of Labor.

The bill was indeed declared an urgent one, and I thank the members of the committee, headed by the member for Nicklin, for their hard work in very few days. I hear that they actually did manage to get to Townsville, which was an important aspect of things. I should say that my contribution is one that is directed towards the people of the northern Gold Coast, to explain to them what this is all about and what the failures of those opposite were all about.

This bill extends the trial of electronic monitoring devices for one year, until 30 April 2026, to ensure a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation can be conducted. Those opposite have commented that it is a change of one digit in an act. Let me explain something to those opposite: it is 365 days of additional data that will be collected. That is the important aspect of this.

The electronic monitoring trial was first introduced in 2021. It was an abysmal failure. It failed to capture enough youth offenders. Indeed, there were five in total—three from Townsville, one from Brisbane North and one from Logan. That was it—five in the state in the first year of this bill in 2021. We warned the former Labor government of this issue right from the start. Indeed, the member for Glass House, who I see is in the House, raised the concern on behalf of those on this side of the House that the number of youth—and I am paraphrasing—who would actually have these monitoring devices fitted may be too small to provide any meaningful data to enable any further decision-making. That was way back then. Labor ignored the warnings and—surprise, surprise—there was not enough monitoring data to properly evaluate the effectiveness of electronic monitoring because not enough youth offenders were ordered to wear monitoring devices as a condition of their bail.

Because of this failure, in February 2023 Labor extended the trial for another two years and made other piecemeal changes. Again, Labor failed to meaningfully make use of the electronic monitoring data, with only 36 electronic devices fitted to 30 distinct youth offenders: one in Mount Isa, three in Moreton, nine in Brisbane, four in Toowoomba, 12 in Logan and seven on the Gold Coast.

The preliminary numbers made it clear: the piecemeal changes Labor made did not deliver the data needed to properly assess the concept. Embarrassingly for Labor, in February 2024, when Katarina Carroll came in as police commissioner, she was the first one to see the need for the Pimpama police station, which has now been built as a result of her direct involvement. As far as she was concerned, it was a no-brainer. We needed it. We had the population growth. We had the crime statistics. We needed that station. We now have more than 40 police officers based there, and I thank her for that. The former police commissioner, Katarina Carroll, at the time publicly called out the

electronic monitoring failure, asking the Labor government to revisit the use of electronic monitoring for youth offenders. She said—

I do think electronic monitoring devices do need to be re-looked at ...

We spend an extraordinary amount of time checking on youth offenders that are on bail.

And that is only a point in time—whereas electronic monitoring devices are constant.

They can track them. She went on to say—

We're not of the view that every child should have an electronic monitoring device—

and nor are we, on this side of the House—

... we're talking about ... serious offending.

...

We look at all the tools that we can have to make the community safer to make sure that we stop reoffending ...

That is what it was all about. It is the pointy end of the youth crime crisis that we are talking about. That was 9 February. Finally, in August 2024, Labor made further amendments to the Youth Justice (Monitoring Device Conditions) Amendment Regulation conditions to add further trial locations and again change the parameters. But critically, they failed to extend the sunset clause which was set to expire on 30 April this year—just eight months later. That meant that there was never going to be enough time for meaningful and comprehensive evaluation, and Labor knew that when they made these changes.

As I said at the outset, this bill extends the trial of electronic monitoring devices for one year—365 more days of data—until 30 April 2026 to ensure a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation can be conducted. Once again, the Crisafulli government has moved to fix the mistake made by Labor in extending the current trial of electronic monitoring as a bail condition for certain youth offenders—not all; for certain youth offenders—to allow time for the completion of meaningful and comprehensive evaluation. Queenslanders want to see a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation happen as well.

The Crisafulli government will conduct a thorough review because we have seen the potential for electronic monitoring to reduce reoffending and, importantly, provide offenders with an opportunity to re-engage with education or employment and improve community safety when it is applied correctly. For example, in July 2022 a 16-year-old in Logan was fitted with an electronic monitoring device after several periods of detention. The court granted bail with conditions that included residential arrangements and locality restrictions, which the youth successfully adhered to. They have not reoffended. In November 2024, a 16-year-old in South-East Queensland successfully completed two months of bail conditions with an electronic monitoring device. The sentencing magistrate noted the young person's high level of compliance and that they did not go on to reoffend. In January 2025, just a few months ago, a 17-year-old in Brisbane was granted conditional bail with an electronic monitoring device and a curfew. The youth not only complied with all of their conditions but also re-engaged with school and actively participated in rehabilitation services.

Half of the young people who were subject to EMD orders did not reoffend, and that is a positive for the people of Queensland. When half of them are not reoffending, we are looking down the throat of less crime going forward from here. We have heard today about some of the drops we have seen around the state. It is early days; we have a long way to go. The comprehensive review will inform government about electronic monitoring for youth offenders. We make no apologies for doing what needs to be done to improve community safety and reduce victims of crime in this state. We are committed to restoring safety to our communities and reducing the number of victims of crime. I commend the bill to the House.