




Speech By
Nigel Dalton

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

Record of Proceedings, 28 August 2025

**DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr DALTON** (Mackay—LNP) (4.31 pm): I have to, sadly, inform the House that the most dangerous place for a woman in Mackay is not in the safe night precinct, in a pub or in a club; a woman is in most danger when she is in a house or residence with a partner or previous partner. We should all feel safest at home, but this is not the case for many women. Domestic and family violence is one of the most pressing challenges facing Queensland today. In Mackay, as in so many regional communities, the impacts of violence ripple far beyond the home. They touch our schools, our hospitals, our workplaces and the very fabric of our community.

Over the last decade, calls for police assistance in domestic and family violence matters have skyrocketed by more than 200 per cent across Queensland. With my previous experience as a police officer in Mackay, I know that these numbers are not just statistics; they are families in crisis, children in fear and neighbours who feel unsafe in their own streets. I hope that not many here in this place have ever seen the turmoil that sometimes occurs within a house where a domestic violence situation has occurred. Five of my colleagues on this side of the House have, and they know that once the dust settles a police officer has to find a way to protect the victim-survivor.

This bill is about putting victim-survivors first, holding perpetrators to account and restoring safety where people live, including in Mackay. At the heart of these reforms under the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 are police protection directions. These new powers mean that, instead of waiting for a court date, police will be able to issue an immediate 12-month protection order to victims. They will have the ability to impose strong and enforceable conditions straightaway such as no-contact orders, cool-down orders or removing perpetrators from the home. This is about real protection when it is needed most. Finally, police have the tools they need to act decisively in domestic and family violence matters. I am shocked by the negativity towards this bill from those opposite.

Importantly, these powers are backed by safeguards. For example, PPDs cannot be issued when children are involved, when weapons are present or when there is an ongoing court matter. These measures ensure the highest risk cases continue to be dealt with through the courts while still prioritising victim safety and reducing the chance of misidentification.

Misidentification concerns have been raised by those opposite. These concerns appear to be based on in-house research carried out in 2016. I know that DFV training has been enhanced since then and is now compulsory within the QPS. I know because I have attended the training and there is a huge focus on identifying the person most in need of protection during that training. Training is being run again this year, with further training to commence in January 2026.

Risk management within the QPS is now done where supervisors review DFV incidents in the cold light of day through the revision of body worn footage recorded at the incident. Furthermore, every party in a reported domestic violence incident is offered referrals to support agencies at the scene.

This bill also delivers on our commitment to pilot GPS monitoring for high-risk domestic violence perpetrators. For the Mackay community this is a game changer. Courts will only impose these conditions when they are necessary to keep victims safe, and the trial will ensure the technology is effective before it is expanded statewide.

We also know the trauma of facing perpetrators in court can be overwhelming. That is why this bill expands the use of videorecorded evidence-in-chief, allowing victims to give their statement once on video and have it used throughout the proceedings. For victim-survivors in Mackay this means less retraumatisation and a justice process that recognises their dignity.

The bill also strengthens the approved provider list for counselling and intervention programs, ensuring only the highest quality services are available to support both victims and offenders. In Mackay, where community organisations and service providers are already stretched, this will help ensure the court ordered programs actually deliver the outcomes needed to break the cycle of violence.

For too long regional communities like Mackay have felt forgotten when it comes to resourcing and reforming domestic violence responses. This bill shows that under the Crisafulli government Mackay matters. It shows that we will not tolerate victims waiting days for protection. It shows that we will use technology to keep people safe. It shows that we are listening to police, to frontline services and, most importantly, to survivors.

This is not just about changing legislation; this is about changing lives. It is about making sure that victims in Mackay and across Queensland who fear for their safety tonight do not have to wait until tomorrow for protection. I thank the police minister, the Attorney-General and the minister for domestic and family violence for their incredible foresight when putting this bill together. I commend this bill to the House.