




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2025

MAKING QUEENSLAND SAFER (ADULT CRIME, ADULT TIME) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (5.32 pm): The LNP have demonstrated that they are not fit to govern. This is the fourth time since the election we have been debating changes to the Youth Justice Act. The secrecy and the gagging from the government through this legislative process guarantees one thing for me: we will be back here for the fifth and the sixth times, and even more. Adult Crime, Adult Time—

Mr Head: We've already said we would be. It's called a process. It is fixing the mess that you made.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Members on my right, interjections are not being taken.

Ms BOYD: Adult Crime, Adult Time was the LNP's signature election policy. Time has demonstrated that this was never, in fact, a policy but just a slogan that misled Queenslanders, a slogan that is not based in solid foundations of legislation. This amendment tranche we are debating today further demonstrates clearly just how the LNP have failed to live up to the hype and promises they made to win favour with Queenslanders. The original iteration of the laws were promised by Premier Crisafulli and his police minister as the thing that would solve youth crime and solve it by Christmas last year—146 days ago.

Mr Lister: When did he say that? He never said that.

Ms BOYD: It is a matter of public record. Check it out. They were laws the Premier had drafted and never consulted stakeholders about and never shared the details with the community. They were laws that after their creation were kept secret in a dark desk drawer and then were rushed through this place to their detriment. It was at that time—

Mr Mander: A dark desk drawer?

Ms BOYD: There is no illumination in a desk drawer, Minister for Sport. It was at that time that stakeholders expressed unreserved concerns—concerns because they were not consulted about the creation of that legislation—and here we are back here again fixing this botched job within a few short months. It is the same sad, sorry story with stakeholders again expressing unreserved concerns around a lack of consultation and the government's steamrolling ahead, steadfastly ignoring and disregarding that legitimate worry.

Everyone wants legislative settings in this House that make our community safer, but on this side of the House we know that legislation alone will not solve the problem. What Queensland is experiencing is not unique to our state; it is seen across the nation despite many different political parties leading states. Indeed, it is a problem seen around the world. However, this LNP government has never sought a solution with a bipartisan approach. That respect is sorely lacking in this

government. It is a shame that the LNP sought to politicise the issue. The LNP weaponised these matters and in doing so retraumatised victims—an even bigger shame. But perhaps the biggest shame—

Mr Lister: What about the abortion stuff that you went on with? It saved your seat. Shame on you!

Ms BOYD: I thought you were gagged on that, member for Southern Downs.

Mr Lister: That's why you're here.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs.

Ms BOYD: Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. What an outburst! It is a shame that the LNP sought to politicise it. The LNP politicise these matters and, in doing so, retraumatise victims—an even bigger shame. Perhaps the biggest shame of all is when it is blatantly clear to all that they have failed comprehensively in this policy reform. They still will not be up-front with stakeholders and peak organisations.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There will be no squabbling across the House, please.

Ms BOYD: They still will not be up-front with stakeholders and peak organisations. They are refusing transparency and, ultimately, this will be to the detriment of Queenslanders.

There have been calls from stakeholders across the board for the minister to release the Expert Legal Panel's advice that has been the subject of this latest wave of legislation. After being promised transparency and openness from the Premier, we have seen his own committee chair gag non-government members and the committee process and, ultimately, continue in the cover-up of the Expert Legal Panel's advice. Stakeholder after stakeholder called for the release of that advice to better inform them, to allow them to better provide their expertise in these matters. They have all been rejected and they have all been silenced by this government.

The Premier promised us openness and transparency, but all we see from his actions is gagging. He gags debate in this House, in the committees, throughout the community and stakeholders. Why can't he come good on his promises? This government deserves to have the blowtorch applied because it is failing itself, this institution and every Queensland community. All they contribute is hollow promises, platitudes and weasel words.

What do the stakeholders say in relation to the LNP's hand-picked five-person Expert Legal Panel's advice being kept secret? Voice for Victims stated—

Voice for Victims did not make any submission to the Expert Legal Panel. We are not aware of any information and we certainly have not seen anything at all.

QCROSS said—

We are asking the government to release the advice provided by the Expert Legal Panel.

...

What is the evidence the government is relying on to say that it will improve community safety? They are referring to advice provided by the Expert Legal Panel and yet none of us have had access to that advice. In order for us to properly understand and provide feedback on this bill, we should have access to that advice.

The Youth Advocacy Centre told the community—

It is really unclear to us why these offences were included, particularly the five or six that already have life imprisonment as an available option for sentencing. For us, and I think the sector and probably the public generally, it would be great to understand why those 20 offences have been included.

In one of the most damning submissions of all, the Victims' Commissioner stated—

The explanatory notes accompanying this Bill do not provide an overarching rationale for the approach adopted by the Government, nor detail the factors considered by the Expert Legal Panel in making their recommendation around the addition of the 20 serious offences. This approach does not appear to me to meet the intention of section 23(1)(c) of the Legislative Standards Act 1992.

She goes on—

The explanatory notes state 'The Expert Legal Panel conducted consultation with stakeholders' without elaboration.

...

... no detail about these consultations has been included in the explanatory notes. I can think of no reason why this information could not be shared with the public and, in particular, victims of crime who wish to understand the process. I think disclosure of this information would assist with ensuring that victims of crimes not included in this Bill have greater understanding of the process so that they will not feel the same anxiety experienced by victims of sexual violence after the first tranche of reforms.

After receiving all of this feedback and more, we have a victims minister who attacks journalists when they ask for the expert advice to be released and then comes into this place today and says that she is only able to talk us through a process. I say this to the minister: save yourself the meltdown and just table the advice. We will not stand in the way of the Premier fixing these laws that he botched. It was clear through the committee process that they have significant adverse impacts on victims of crime.

We will absolutely shine a light on the secretive and subpar way that the Crisafulli government has botched this and, along with the community and sector, judge the government on the effectiveness of these laws. Our community deserves so much better than this rabble who is bereft of vision, ideas and substance. Come good on your slogan of gold standard early intervention and have the courage to stand by its outcomes, be honest enough with Queenslanders to front up with the monthly victim data reporting, provide an independent review of these legislative reforms that are publicly released and back in victim-survivors by removing good character references during sentencing of rape and sexual offences. It is time for this government to lift the bar.