




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

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

 **Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (4.08 pm): I rise today to speak in strong support of two important bills—the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill. These bills are about real people in real communities like mine in Redlands facing very real harm. Because, let us be honest, knife crime, parole breaches and repeat offending is more than just a media headline, there are real victims and real families. These crimes are lived experiences for families, frontline officers and small businesses in our Redlands community and right across Queensland. Queenslanders have made it clear they want action, not excuses.

In December 2023, Redlands local and army veteran Chris Sanders was brutally stabbed by a teenager at the Alexandra Hills Shopping Centre. Chris had simply gone to buy a roast chicken when he was approached by a group of teens. After an exchange of words, one of them followed him and stabbed him in broad daylight, one wound coming within centimetres of his heart. His wife, Jodi, watched in horror as her husband collapsed, bleeding and struggling to breathe. That single act of violence changed their lives forever and it shook the entire Redlands community. When I spoke with locals afterwards, I heard and felt their fear and frustration. Parents are too afraid to let their kids walk through the shops. Police officers are facing more and more young people who are carrying knives. What happened to Chris was not just an attack on him; it was an attack on our community's sense of security. That is why making Jack's Law permanent is so critical.

Between April 2023 and March 2025, over 115,000 people were scanned and 1,124 weapons were seized. Those are not just numbers; they represent thousands of potential tragedies prevented. This bill removes red tape, gives our frontline police the ability to act quickly in safe night precincts and transport hubs, and provides a clear authorisation process for other public spaces. In Redlands, that includes places such as Redland Bay Shopping Village, our SMI ferry terminal and Victoria Point town centre where families shop, teens hang out and some local businesses, such as our movie cinemas, operate late into the night. Our police officers should not have to wait for written notices or a venue manager's approval to use a handheld scanner. This bill gives them the tools and trust they need while still maintaining safeguards like body worn cameras, community reporting and strict oversight.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge Acting Assistant Commissioner Rhys Wildman, whose leadership has been critical in the rollout of Jack's Law. He said recently—

By scanning for, detecting, and removing dangerous weapons from Queensland streets, police aim to reduce the harms these weapons cause in the community and educate the public on the risks of unlawfully carrying a weapon.

That is exactly the kind of practical and on-the-ground approach that this legislation supports. Under his guidance, Queensland police have removed hundreds of weapons during wandering operations. That is a powerful reminder that every knife taken off the street means potentially a life saved. I thank Acting Assistant Commissioner Wildman for his dedication to community safety and his frontline support of this lifesaving law.

We owe it to Chris Sanders and we owe it to Jack Beasley, the young man this law is named after, who was tragically killed by a knife-wielding offender on the Gold Coast. We owe it to every Queenslander who simply wants to feel safe in their community. However, safety also depends on a justice system that responds when things go wrong.

That is where the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill comes in. Right now, a single Parole Board member can decide not to suspend parole, even when someone poses an unacceptable risk to community safety. That decision does not have to be reviewed by the full board. That is a major oversight and in a place like Redlands, where we have seen repeat offenders who are out on parole commit serious crimes, that poor oversight can have a devastating consequence. This bill fixes that. It ensures that any urgent decision not to suspend parole must be reviewed by the Parole Board within two business days. That is just common sense. No one person should have the power to risk the safety of a whole community without putting proper checks in place.

Some will try to claim there is no gap, but the president of the Parole Board himself told the committee otherwise. He told the committee 'there is a hole there' and 'there is a gap'. This government is closing that gap. In fact, this bill goes even further. It validates past board decisions to reverse or review single-member determinations—decisions that were made in the interest of public safety but have carried legal uncertainty. That uncertainty ends here.

I want to speak directly to those who may raise concerns about civil liberties. That conversation is always worth having in a democracy. However, what we are really talking about here is a non-invasive scan that takes just seconds and a mandatory review process when a parolee poses a serious risk. Those are reasonable and proportionate steps, not excessive overreach. What is unreasonable is allowing knives into shopping centres, parks and ferry terminals without consequence. What is unreasonable is letting a parolee who has breached conditions continue to walk the streets unchecked. Queenslanders and especially Redlanders deserve better. These bills strike the right balance. They protect rights without compromising safety. They uphold the integrity of our justice system while empowering it to act when the stakes are high.

Importantly, the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill includes provisions to support our local volunteers, the very people who step up when disaster strikes. It confirms Marine Rescue Queensland's charitable status, ensuring a smooth and lawful transition of assets from long-serving volunteer organisations. In Redlands, marine safety is a part of our way of life. From the mainland to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands, our marine crews are often the first and sometimes the only responders when lives are at risk. I thank every single one of them for their dedication, especially Marine Rescue Queensland at Victoria Point where my grandfather is a life member. The bill also validates past SES appointments, which is a critical step for communities like mine where SES crews play a vital role in flood responses, storm recovery and search and rescue, as they did during Tropical Cyclone Alfred. These reforms ensure our frontline responders, whether in a uniform or a volunteer vest, are supported by the law and not restricted by it.

I am proud to stand here as a member of the government. We listen, we learn and we will lead. I am proud to stand up for Redlands residents such as Chris and Jodi Sanders. I am proud to champion the voices of victims over the excuses of offenders. The people of Redlands, like those of communities across Queensland, have said loud and clear that they want safety restored, they want parole breaches taken seriously, they want knife crime addressed and they want the justice system to act not after tragedy but before. These bills answer that call. They are practical, they are proportionate and, above all, they are necessary.

Let us honour Jack Beasley and all those whose lives have been shattered by preventable crime. Let us acknowledge the extraordinary strength and courage of Jack's parents, Brett and Belinda Beasley, who turned unimaginable grief into tireless advocacy. Their determination to make Jack's Law a reality has already saved lives and their legacy will continue to protect countless more. Queensland is a safer place because of them. Let us get this done for Redlands and for Queensland.