




Speech By  
**Rob Molhoek**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT**

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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 MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (4.25 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. I will also briefly touch on the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill—a vital reform to ensure parole decisions ensure community safety, not just procedure.

Jack's Law matters because every Queenslanders deserves to feel safe walking through a shopping centre, catching a train or heading out with their mates at night because what happened to Jack Beasley in 2019 should never have happened. At just 17 years of age, Jack was senselessly killed in a knife attack in Surfers Paradise. I still remember hearing the news—a young life lost, a family forever changed, a community shaken. In the weeks and months that followed, Jack's parents, Brett and Belinda Beasley, did something extraordinary. They turned unimaginable grief into action. They demanded change.

As a father, this is heartbreaking. I have lived on the Gold Coast my whole life and my sons often went out to Surfers Paradise as young adults. I cannot imagine the pain of the phone call that Jack's parents received that night. As a young person, I also went into Surfers myself many times through the seventies and eighties. It is tragic to think that Surfers Paradise has become a place where we even need to consider such laws and laws of this magnitude, but unfortunately it is a reflection of the times.

Jack's Law began as a trial in the Gold Coast safe night precincts—first in Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise. It gave our police handheld scanner powers to wand for weapons in high-risk areas. The results speak volumes. Between April 2023 and May 2025, more than 1,000 weapons were taken off our streets. That is a sobering thought. Over 115,000 people were wanded and more than 3,000 charges were laid—one law saving countless lives.

Instead of using it to protect the community to its maximum potential, the former Labor government watered it down. They introduced so many roadblocks and bureaucratic hurdles that police were forced to jump through hoops just to do their job. They created an evidentiary test requiring senior officers to prove a serious crime had occurred in the area within the past six months before wanding could even begin. Then they added a subjective test, asking officers to judge whether wanding might deter crime based on comparisons to previous authorisations.

What they created was an unworkable mess, one that disincentivised proactive policing and missed major events like schoolies, some of the local music festivals and the Supercar weekends entirely—places and times where common sense says you would want the strongest protections in place. I have spoken to officers based on the coast who were frustrated. They told me plainly that the paperwork was too much, the process was too long and sometimes they simply did not have the time or resources to jump through all the hoops.

People do not feel safe in parts of Southport, and this bill will help. In Australia Fair constituents are regularly sharing their complaints and fears of knife crime. Nerang Street Mall business owners want more wandering and they are fed up with people having bladed weapons in their stores. Crime at tram stations in the CBD also has locals crying out for Jack's Law. This law is sensible and it is about safety; that is why this bill matters. It cuts red tape, it restores the original intent behind Jack's Law and it empowers our police to act when and where they need to.

Under this legislation, police officers will now be able to use handheld wandering devices in designated relevant places such as safe night precincts, shopping centres, stadiums and transport hubs without first seeking authorisation from a senior officer. In other public places wandering can still occur with authorisation, but we have made that process clearer and more responsive. This approach is fair, it is balanced and it is effective. We have listened to the feedback from police, councils and the public. Gold Coast City council and Cairns Regional Council have backed this bill. So too have the Queensland Police Union, the Queensland Police Commissioned Officers Union and of course the Jack Beasley Foundation.

Belinda Beasley said it best: 'Every weapon off the streets is a potential life saved.' Let's be clear: Jack's Law is not about targeting people; it is about protecting them. This bill does not just make Jack's Law permanent; it improves it, it strengthens it and it ensures Queensland stays a leader in tackling knife crime. This is about making sure no other Queensland family has to experience what the Beasleys did. It is about every mum and dad who wants their child to get home safely after a night out. It is about every school principal, every security guard, every officer and every community leader who has said 'enough is enough'. This bill honours Jack's legacy by delivering real change. We said we would make Jack's Law permanent, and today we are.

I will now turn to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill. This bill fixes a longstanding flaw in the system—one where decisions to release parolees into the community could be made by a single board member without mandatory oversight, even in cases where correction officers raised serious safety concerns. Labor's laws gave offenders more protection than the victims. This bill restores that balance. It ensures the full board must review those decisions, placing community safety at the heart of the process. The bill also confirms that past decisions made by the full board, particularly where a parolee was returned to custody after a risky release, were valid and enforceable. These are commonsense changes that address a serious legislative gap.

Queenslanders deserve to feel safe in their communities, and that starts with a parole system that works in the public interest. Adult time matters; parole laws need to reflect community expectations. A failed parole system has the ability to water down our judicial system, so I am happy to commend both of these bills to the House.