




Speech By
Hon. Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (5.14 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025 which continues to deliver on the Crisafulli LNP government's election commitment to restore community safety across Queensland. While these two pieces of legislation are now being treated as a cognate bill, I wish to first address the substance of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This legislation is yet another example of the Crisafulli LNP government being a government that keeps its promises—a government that does what it says it is going to do. This legislation will deliver on the Crisafulli LNP government's commitment to expand and make Jack's Law permanent. It will give our police the laws they need to protect our community and it will save lives.

At the outset of my contribution, I wish to acknowledge the incredible advocacy and strength of Jack's parents, Belinda and Brett Beasley, who have endured more than any parent should. They have taken a horrific tragedy and created an incredible not-for-profit organisation in Jack's name that is committed to making a difference in the fight against youth violence. They spend significant time educating young Queenslanders about the dangers of carrying a knife, in the hope of preventing the kind of violence that tragically claimed Jack's life. Belinda and Brett visit schools and community organisations across our state, and indeed across our country, sharing Jack's story and educating others about the long-term impacts of knife crime and youth violence—all in the hope of ensuring no other family loses a loved one to knife crime. This legislation is a testament to their strength and Jack's legacy.

I take this opportunity to recognise my two colleagues who have tirelessly championed this legislation, the Minister for Housing and Public Works and the Minister for Youth and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Anyone who has spent any time in this House has heard the Minister for Housing and Public Works and the Minister for Youth speak passionately in support of the Jack Beasley Foundation and Jack's Law. He has championed these changes for years and worked tirelessly alongside the Beasleys to see these laws become a reality. I also wish to recognise the Minister for Police and Emergency Services who has ensured these legislative changes were prioritised and delivered as a matter of urgency by our government.

The Crisafulli LNP government was clear: we will not stand by while innocent lives are lost to knife crime. I am proud to join my colleagues in supporting this bill. I note that the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee made just one recommendation in its review of this bill: that the bill be passed.

The data to date supporting Jack's Law is undeniable. Between April 2023 and May 2025, 1,124 weapons were seized, with 115,334 persons being wanded by senior police officers. Over 3,000 people have already been charged as a result of these operations. This legislation makes Jack's Law permanent, after those opposite included a sunset clause in the original legislation that would have seen Jack's Law expire on 30 October 2026. This legislation does not just guarantee Jack's Law permanency, it also improves the operation of the legislation, including simplifying the notification and reporting framework for police. These laws will continue to enhance community safety and provide Queensland police with proactive powers to address violent crimes involving knives. The bill also provides safeguards to ensure the police use of handheld scanners in authorised public places is appropriate, with officers to select persons to be scanned on a random basis and for police to use their body-worn cameras when conducting such scans. Police acting under Jack's Law will undertake specific training on the framework prior to conducting handheld scanning exercises.

This legislation, once passed, will see Queensland boast nation-leading knife crime and wandering legislation, and it is clear that Queenslanders are supportive of this practical measure to take weapons off our streets. It was encouraging to hear the remarks of the Queensland Police Service to the committee, with the QPS observing that the public's response to wandering laws has been overwhelmingly positive.

Noting the legislation before the House is a cognate bill, I turn briefly to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025, which is yet another example of the Crisafulli LNP government placing the rights of victims front and centre in every decision we make. This legislation provides the Parole Board Queensland with the power to review decisions made by individual board members to leave parolees in the community. I note that positive feedback regarding the bill has been received from stakeholders such as Parole Board President Michael Woodford, who reflected that the bill will correct a substantial gap that has existed in the parole suspension framework for some time. The legislation will ensure community safety is not legally sidelined when urgent parole decisions are made. In short, we are fixing yet another Labor failure and giving the Parole Board the power it needs to do its job: to make decisions that keep the Queensland community safe.

The Crisafulli LNP government will continue working tirelessly to see improvements in crime numbers and community safety across the board, including proactively addressing issues like knife crime in our communities to ensure safety is restored across Queensland. Accordingly, I commend the bills to the House.