




Speech By  
**Stephen Bennett**

**MEMBER FOR BURNETT**

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**YOUTH JUSTICE (MONITORING DEVICES) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (8.57 pm): Firstly, I thank the member for Caloundra for her contribution and for thanking the ministers involved and echo her comments. This bill extends the trial for electronic monitoring devices for one year to ensure a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation can be conducted. The importance of this debate has been explained by many which delivers a fresh start for Queensland, and we are delivering on making laws to make our communities safer a reality and could not be more proud.

Why are we moving quickly after a decade of failures? We know that the electronic monitoring trial has had a long and complicated history since it was first introduced for a two-year trial in 2021. The initial trial was an abysmal failure in that it failed to capture enough youth offenders for an evaluation to be completed. In the first year of the trial's operation five youth offenders had electronic monitoring orders imposed as a condition of their bail. The LNP warned the former Labor government many times that this would fail. Labor did not heed the warnings. Its own review in 2021 failed to even confirm the effectiveness of electronic monitoring in deterring offending behaviour, but not enough youth offenders were ordered to wear the monitoring devices in the first instance.

Because of the failure in 2023, the former government extended the trial for another two years and made piecemeal changes to electronic monitoring. However, again Labor failed to make those meaningful changes and only 36 monitoring conditions were issued for 30 distinct youth offenders. The former government responded to this in August 2024—you cannot really write this stuff when you start to put all of these dates and this fiasco together, but it continues—when it amended the youth justice monitoring device conditions regulation to add further trial locations and again changed the parameters but critically failed to extend the sunset clause, which expires on 30 April this year. This means that there was never going to be enough time for a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation. Labor knew this when the changes were made in August but still kept the sunset clause expiring in April this year.

The Crisafulli government is extending the current trial of electronic monitoring as a bail condition for certain youth offenders for another 12 months to 30 April 2026 to allow time for a complete and meaningful comprehension of the evaluation. Currently for a youth offender to be granted bail with an electronic monitoring condition they must be at least 15 years old, be charged with a prescribed indictable offence and have either been found guilty of at least one indictable offence or charged with an unrelated prescribed indictable offence in the preceding 12 months and have consented to wearing the device. These changes also expand the list of prescribed indictable offences to include specific offences involving violence and threats of violence. The LNP wants to see a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation happen. It has been said many times by other speakers just how important community safety laws are.