



Speech By  
**Stephen Bennett**


**MEMBER FOR BURNETT**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 April 2025

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

Resumed from 1 April (see p. 698)

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (5.20 pm), continuing: In a change of pace, we will go back to the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill. What a great piece of legislation. Members can stay as I think it is important that members listen to my contribution. As I was saying at nine o'clock last night, these changes are important.

The bill expands 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. The Crisafulli government will conduct a thorough review because we have seen the potential of electronic monitoring to reduce reoffending, to provide offenders with an opportunity to be re-engaged with education and employment, and to improve community safety when it is applied correctly. Half the young people who were subject to EMD orders did not reoffend. That has been spoken about a lot in this debate. It is a really important point to emphasise. When these things are done right, they have a great outcome for our community. This comprehensive review will inform government decisions about electronic monitoring for youth offenders. We make no apology for doing what needs to be done to improve community safety and reduce victims of crime in this state.

The Crisafulli government is committed to restoring safety in our communities and reducing victims of crime. By extending this electronic monitoring trial and allowing time for a meaningful and comprehensive review, we are prioritising community safety. It means that our courts will continue to have an option to make an electronic monitoring condition for youth offenders in our community. It will continue to help ease the pressure on local police resources.

We speak about police resources because we know they are stretched in the regions. Electronic monitoring can serve as a proactive tool to reduce reoffending. Wouldn't it have been exciting for our police officers to be given that level of respect over a long period? How many times in this place have we called out the fact that police have been wanting those resources and that we should give them the respect and support that they have needed over a long period. When senior police can allocate resources more effectively in our communities, they can deal with the other rampant crime issues that are now part of our community—and we wish them all the best.

I want to talk about police data. New police data since the Crisafulli government's landmark Adult Crime, Adult Time was introduced suggest that the stronger laws are beginning to deter youth crime. The latest figures from 1 December 2024 to 28 February 2025 reveal 453 fewer stolen vehicles across the state when compared to the same period the previous year, as well as 1,033 fewer break-ins. The early data points to the impact of the laws as a deterrent for youth offenders, following a decade of Labor's youth crime crisis with skyrocketing crime across Queensland. Between 1 December and 28 February, compared to the same period the previous year—and these are really important statistics—we had an 8.2 per cent reduction in stolen cars; an 8.4 per cent reduction in break-ins; a 4.8 per cent reduction in robberies; and a 16.9 per cent reduction in woundings.

Under Labor's weak laws with fewer police, youth crime continued to grow year after year, with the number of stolen cars jumping more than 101 per cent under Labor and break-ins up 44 per cent. Today I want to expose again just how out of touch Labor was. Some statistics that were released earlier by the minister in this House deserve to be repeated for the sake of the House when we talk about what youth crime and youth preventive strategies should look like. The figures for break-ins increased by 28.3 per cent; stolen vehicles increased by 91 per cent; robberies increased by 100.9 per cent; armed robberies increased by 82.3 per cent; kidnapping increased by 82.2 per cent; arson increased by 28.5 per cent; and rape and attempted rape increased by 92.2 per cent.

**Ms FARMER:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Yesterday in my contribution to the debate the Deputy Speaker sat me down for making statements which are outside the long title of the bill. I seek your ruling on relevance of the content of the member's speech.

**Mr SPEAKER:** We had a long conversation about this at the Speaker's meeting this morning. As I said to the Deputy Speakers who were working last night, anything that is contained in the committee report is obviously relevant to this debate. Anything that is contained in the statement of reservation—that is, anything that is contained in the dissenting report—and any evidence given at committee hearings is all relevant. There was some confusion about the scope of this bill, but anything that is contained in the committee report is relevant. Member for Burnett, because I was talking a bit, can you inform me what you were addressing just then?

**Mr BENNETT:** Crime statistics that have been openly disseminated. They were in the media. Mr Speaker, I am happy to move on for the sake of the House. Everyone really wants this bill to pass.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You have the call.

**Mr BENNETT:** Our Making Queensland Safer Laws are more important than argy-bargy across the chamber. I have only been warned once. If you get warned multiple times and you do not listen, that is when you deserve to be sat down. I will move on.

I want to finish with some statistics. Across the decade, the number of juveniles charged with stealing cars went from 2,155 to 7,000 and the number of young offenders charged with breaking and entering doubled from nearly 5,000 to 9,000.

In closing, I want to make sure that I recognise the minister in this space. When I first met the minister some years ago, I saw a strong person who was passionate about law and order. She brought that passion to this place. Here we are debating some really important laws that are reflective of not only her passion but the government's passion to making sure our Making Queensland Safer Laws are a reality. We could not be more delighted to be able to go back to our electorates and talk about being strong on crime; Adult Crime, Adult Time; youth reoffending; and, more importantly, reconnecting our youth with opportunities to go forward and make our communities a better space.

I want to thank everyone involved in bringing this legislation forward. The fact that we have been able to push this debate into a second day is really important. With a minute to go, I hope we can close it out. I congratulate the minister. I commend the bill to the House.