




Speech By
Stephen Bennett

MEMBER FOR BURNETT

Record of Proceedings, 11 June 2025

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

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (4.59 pm): How good was that speech from the member for Redcliffe. She is a passionate member of her community. She is proud to stand up for keeping her community safe. Congratulations. We know this bill is about keeping our community safe, and it is about keeping Queenslanders safe. We should be applauding those bringing these reforms forward. Can you imagine another decade of a soft-on-crime youth justice agenda? Let us acknowledge the Beasleys, the Beasley Foundation, Minister Dan Purdie, the police officers out there administering the wanding operations in the safe night precincts, Minister Sam O'Connor and his advocacy in the early days, the Premier, the government, the committees and, of course, all those in the House who represent youth justice and youth reform in their communities.

We have all been supportive of Jack's Law from day one. Today's improvements will make it better and more effective than ever before. We will keep working in this space for youth justice, community justice and community safety. Despite what you will hear from those opposite, let me remind the House that between 2023 and 2025: 1,124 weapons were seized, over 115,000 persons were wanded by senior police officers and over 3,000 people were charged as a result of operations. Importantly, statistics have shown that the number of offences involving knives in a public place which is not a 'relevant place' have only increased so we need to increase our efforts. We know frontline officers are telling us that there were ineffective procedures and administrative arrangements that do not advance the fight against knife crime; if anything, they prevent the police from doing their jobs. The notification and reporting requirements are imposing significant burdens on police.

The bill before us tonight: appropriately balances community safety with civil liberties; prioritises the rights of victims over the rights of offenders; makes Jack's Law permanent by removing the sunset clause scheduled to expire on 30 October 2026; allows a police officer to use a handheld scanner in a relevant place without the need to obtain authority to do so from a senior police officer; expands the applications of Jack's Law to include public places that are not relevant places by allowing police officers to use handheld scanners, provided they have first obtained authority from a senior police officer to do so; simplifies the notification reporting framework from police; and improves policing efficiencies by streamlining the legislative framework underlying this law. These are important and necessary reforms that will enhance community safety and provide our police with proactive policing powers to address those crimes involving knives.

It is also important to remind Queenslanders of the work done since the election and the commitments we have implemented: the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024; the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025; the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025; Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025; and Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment

Bill 2025. It delivers on a commitment that we made and we have a proud tradition of restoring the rights of victims. In addition, once this bill passes, it will make Jack's Law permanent and, of course, those nation-leading laws with knives.

A couple of amendments are included in this bill. The bill extends the operational period for the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act. It also amends the Marine Rescue Queensland Act, MRQ Act, to clarify that Marine Rescue Queensland is capable of receiving gifts. With your indulgence, Mr Speaker, in respect of that particular clause, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Bundaberg volunteers who transitioned to the new Marine Rescue Queensland at a special citation event. Thanks to MRQ Bundaberg Unit Commander, Rod Studholme, and Chief Officer, Tony Wulff.

I also want to recognise William 'Bill' Ker OAM, a retired skipper who appeared in the King's Birthday 2025 Honours List, receiving his OAM for service to the community through emergency services organisations. Bill is a retired Royal Australian Navy veteran, a passionate yachtie who joined Volunteer Marine Rescue Bundaberg at the tender age of 60. After 20 years he still epitomises volunteering in every way. Up until he retired from active work, he was an on-call skipper who regularly put his own life at risk, using his extensive knowledge to train and mentor young volunteers. Throughout his 27 years of the service of VMR—now MRQ—Bill has been involved in 612 activations and over 1,400 hours of sea time, including 1,268 hours as a vessel master. His passion for volunteering is shared by his wife, Mely, a marine rescue volunteer for the past 22 years. Marine Rescue Bundaberg, and our community, are proud of Bill's achievements. Well done and congratulations.

Of course, the bill also amends the State Emergency Service Act 2024. I also want to give a shout-out to Kieran from the Bundaberg SES who has been acknowledged in the King's Birthday Honours List. I acknowledge all of the first responders in our community today, of course, with it being First Responder Day. I especially want the House to shine a light on the tragic events that have happened over the last couple of weeks in the Bundaberg region. We acknowledge all of those who were involved: our frontline service personnel, our police, our responsive firies, ambos and all those support services. It has been a tough time and our thoughts are still with the families in our communities as they find a way to grieve after the tragedies of the last two to three weeks.

As the Premier said, we are a government that keeps our promises. The passing of this legislation will deliver on the Crisafulli LNP government's commitment to expand and make Jack's Law permanent. It will protect Queenslanders and equip our police with laws that are both fit for purpose and efficient. With that, I am proud to support this bill and commend it to the House.