




Speech By  
**Hon. Steve Minnikin**  
**MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH**

---

Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2025

**MAKING QUEENSLAND SAFER (ADULT CRIME, ADULT TIME) AMENDMENT  
BILL**

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (10.49 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025. In doing so, I will make my contribution in two parts: one as the local member for Chatsworth; and two in relation to my role as the Minister for Small and Family Business. I have listened to many of the contributions. Only about two sittings ago I said that I have a great deal of respect for many of the members on that side of the chamber. If you have a listen to their contributions on this particular bill you have to ask yourself whether they have learned anything since 26 October last year. I stand to be corrected, but I wrote a little note down. I think the member for McConnel finally admitted, with 18 seconds to go out of her 10-minute contribution, that she will support the legislation in the end.

**Ms Grace:** Reluctantly.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** Reluctantly; I take the interjection. Similarly, the member for Ferny Grove had one minute and three seconds on the clock before he, too, after his diatribe, finally admitted that he will support the bill. There was one member on that side of the chamber who was defiant to the very end: the member for Cairns. When it comes time to voting on this particular bill, I will be very much looking forward to seeing which way the member for Cairns votes. Time and again we hear that he speaks a very big game in one area but not the other, so I will be very interested in particular to see the way the member for Cairns votes on this particular bill.

I will come back to the sections that are going to be amended in relation to the Criminal Code 1899 because there are a couple that are very pertinent to small and family businesses. I quote subsection 412(2) and subsection 412(3)—that is, ‘Attempted robbery (armed or in company)’ and ‘Attempted robbery (armed and with violence)’. This month, May, is Small Business Month. I have made it my business to travel across many parts of the state. I will be going to Caboolture to a chamber of commerce early in the morning. No matter where I go, there has been a recurring theme brought to my attention. In terms of the impost on small and family business, it has been, understandably for many years, the cost of energy. In the last few years in particular it has now become apparent that it is the cost of insurance, and much of that relates to armed robbery and plate glass insurance. It is absolutely getting beyond a joke. There is no doubt that we need to look at extending the second tranche of reforms, and I congratulate the minister on doing that.

I am incredulous because it is almost as though the opposition has the same cheat sheet or speaking points. They are not trying to vary their contributions to their own particular circumstances because they come back and say—

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** I will take the interjection; there were lazy contributions from members of the ALP. It is completely different now that they are in opposition and they have to start doing the work themselves. Here is the reason why. Time and again they have said, ‘Here we go. We are here to

debate changes that are basically fixing up the legislation.' We made it patently clear last year before Christmas that we would introduce the first tranche of reforms. It was stated emphatically by pretty much every speaker on this side of the chamber that it was the first tranche. More tranches would be looked at.

That brings me back to this bill from the member for Chatsworth's perspective. I absolutely support this bill amending the following offences in the Adult Crime, Adult Time bill which are included in the Criminal Code. I have mentioned two of the sections already. They also include bringing in sections 69, 75, 306, 307 et cetera. There are about 22 or 23 amendments that will now need to be brought in.

I go back to probably the best thing you can do as a local member. It is called field evidence. Like many members on this side of the chamber, I regularly have meetings with constituents, whether it be a mobile office or going to retirement villages and meeting people. I particularly love social media and communicating that way, but the best thing of all is when you can look constituents in the eye and get their feedback firsthand. I can tell members firsthand that, no matter where I go, the one thing that comes through time and again is, 'Thank you for what you are doing with this important piece of public policy.' I hear it time and again. I would hasten to suggest that members on this side of the chamber are hearing the same thing.

Like many members on this side, a couple of Saturdays ago it was a tough day at the office federally for many of our members. I acknowledge many of the federal members on our side of the fence who did not make it. Whilst handing out, whether it be at the pre-poll on the Friday afternoon or on the Saturday for half a day—in my case, at Belmont Primary School—time and again people said to me, 'Thank you for what it is that you guys and girls are doing at the state level in relation to this area of public policy.'

The bottom line is that you cannot have a bob each way and in a 10-minute contribution use nine minutes and 50 seconds to carp and whinge and whine and then literally before you hit the red button and turn it off, slink back in your seat and go, 'Oh, by the way, we will support it'. It does not work that way. The reality is that it is on the sticky paper. We do not need to get them to repeat things; it is in *Hansard* forever. I certainly will be going through *Hansard*. I have already made notes of the timestamps. I will go back and pull to pieces the contributions from many members on that side.

The reality is that we are only seven months into a four-year term. There is much to be done. It has been mentioned already, but I want to put on the record the fact that the police minister said the words 'green shoots'. He also said that the job is not done. No-one on this side of the chamber is popping champagne corks. We all know that youth crime is still out there, but one thing is for sure: there were two choices for Queenslanders. When they got their 2B lead pencils on 26 October last year many of them thought 'this is the moment of truth'. I know one thing—and I said this in my contribution pre-Christmas when the first bill was brought before the House—during October you only had to say a couple of words, 'youth crime', and they would stop. Those undecided voters would stop in their tracks. How do I know this is so? Because I am speaking on this side of the chamber, not that side of the chamber.

The fact of the matter is they have squibbed it. They have blown this. People will look back in years to come and say that those opposite blew it because of the fact that in 2015-16 and 2017 they talked about arrogance and hubris. I remember sitting right there and seeing the glee and joy on their faces. Some 9½ years ago we said there would be unintended consequences. Surely, they should have taken stock. They doubled down and now we have the situation that Queensland finds itself in.

Let me just go to a couple of the green shoots because I want to get them on the record. Let me repeat what I just said. No-one on this side of the chamber is going ballistic and popping champagne corks. There is so much more work to be done. This is, in fact, very much part and parcel of what needs to be done. Who knows; there may be more. I do not know. The fact of the matter is that we will keep on doing what we need to do. I am going to take the scenario that the member for Oodgeroo pointed out before. There are people in every electorate who, when they go to bed at night now, after a decade of what has happened with this maladministration of public policy, at the first bump, the first sign, there is a night of unrest. They do not sleep. They are absolutely panic-stricken. They do not know how to cope. It is not an exaggeration because we see it in our electorate offices.

The green shoots go something like this. Across Queensland offences are down 2.98 per cent—three per cent roughly—between January this year and April when compared to the same period the year prior. You might think 2.98 per cent, three per cent—but it is starting. There are very early green shoots. It is going the way it needs to but there is more work to be done. I very much look forward to seeing how members opposite vote in the coming hours.