



Speech By  
**Terry James**

**MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE**

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### **YOUTH JUSTICE (ELECTRONIC MONITORING) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (11.56 am): Today we are delivering a clear and unwavering message to the people of Queensland. The Crisafulli government will no longer tolerate half-hearted measures when it comes to youth crime. Under our government the use of electronic monitoring devices for youth on bail is not just a fleeting experiment or a talking point; it is a permanent robust condition. This is not some policy that will quietly expire or be watered down over time. It is here to stay because our communities demand nothing less.

Unlike the Labor opposition, tinkering at the edges and delivering little of substance, we are providing the certainty and stability that Queenslanders deserve—no more fluffing around with temporary solutions. We have studied five years of Labor's failed electronic monitoring trial and the results are crystal clear: restricting monitoring to a narrow age group, a handful of locations and only certain offences simply did not work. Courts were left powerless to order electronic monitoring except in the most limited of circumstances—only 15- to 17-year-olds, only if they lived in a prescribed area, only if their case was heard in a certain court, only if they faced very specific charges and only if they had already been involved in serious offending. The system was riddled with loopholes and limitations, and our communities are paying the price.

Queenslanders are tired of excuses. My community is fed up with the endless cycle of crime and empty rhetoric. They are pleading for decisive action, and today that is exactly what we are delivering. Let me be very clear: our approach is not reckless. We have embedded strong safeguards in legislation to ensure this policy is effective and fair.

Electronic monitoring will only be imposed where there are: services absolutely necessary to support the reliable operation of monitoring service—that means robust network coverage wherever the youth lives; services specifically tailored to help the young person comply with the condition—comprehensive bail support services; and services suitable to assist in the ongoing monitoring and supervision of the youth.

We are not just ticking boxes. We are making sure that technology, support and accountability work together to reduce reoffending. This is a government that listens, acts and delivers. We will not return to the failed policies of the past. Our message to would-be offenders is simple: we are watching, we are acting and we are serious about ending the scourge of youth crime. The time for empty words is over; the time for action is now. I commend the bill to the House.