




Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2025

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

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (3.44 pm): Queenslanders and Queensland victims deserve to be protected from young criminals. Queenslanders and Queensland victims deserve to have laws that are in place that are appropriate to the circumstances. What Queenslanders do not deserve is a Labor opposition standing in the way of the Making Queensland Safer Laws that will mean our community is safe, our police have the laws they need and our courts can enforce those laws knowing they have the confidence of the government and the government supports them in doing so. What Queenslanders do not deserve is a shaky opposition leader hanging on by the skin of his teeth to his leadership who cannot and refuses to make a decision in relation to—

Mr DICK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order under the standing orders on relevance. The leadership of the state parliamentary Labor Party is not part of the motion.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Thank you, member for Woodridge.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members on both sides. Minister for Health, confine your comments to the procedural motion at hand, please.

Mr NICHOLLS: I was referring to what Queenslanders deserve because those are the words that the current Leader of the Opposition is talking about. What we know about the opposition when it comes to this debate is this is a debate they do not want to have. This is a debate that the Labor Party have not wanted to have—and they did not want to have it last December—because we know what happens when we have this debate. We know they have about three or four different caucus meetings and the member for Cooper goes off in a huff and says, 'I don't want to be part of it.' We know—

Mr DICK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The motion, of course, seeks to amend the second reading motion. This contribution has nothing to do with that. The point of order is on relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will seek some advice.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members. I am seeking advice from the Clerk. It is not an invitation to quarrel across the chamber. Minister for Health, you are being relevant in terms of your contribution, but I advise you again to continue being relevant.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Deputy Speaker, can I say that is both a very wise judgement and very wise advice and I will continue to be relevant to the amendment bearing in mind what I have listened to for the past 30 minutes. The amendment goes to the second reading speech and the only purpose of the

amendment is to delay the second reading. That is the only thing it can do because the mover says the words 'now read a second time' be deleted, so it is absolutely relevant to ask why they want to delay the second reading speech. It is absolutely relevant to debate the terms of the reason they want to do this. They do not want to have a vote on this despite the fact that the Leader of the Opposition said, as I recall from reports in the media, 'We won't stand in the way.' What are they doing right now? They are, like the bridge over the Bremer River, a roadblock on the advancing of Queensland's interests and the advancing of the safety and the protection of victims in Queensland.

What they do not want to do is have another internal fight that they can barely manage in relation to what should constitute the Making Queensland Safer Laws and the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. They do not want to have this debate. I heard them; they have quoted everyone else who presented to the committee—and that is fair enough; that is what the committees are for. We respect the committee process; we allow it to occur, which is much more, I might say, than the opposition leader did when they brought in amendments in 2023 and overrode the Human Rights Act. They moved all those amendments en bloc. We are doing much more than they ever did in respect to it.

What they are not doing is making their own argument here. What they are failing to do is making their own argument as to why these laws should not pass this week. They are not making a cogent case as to where they think they will fail. Which law do they think should not be passed? Which one do they quibble with? Which one do they not support? These are all the questions that the Labor Party do not want to answer and have been unable to answer for over a decade.

These are the questions that the member for Murrumba cannot answer because his heart is not in it. We know that his heart is not in it. These are the questions that the member for Gaven does not want to answer because we know that she does not believe in it. Deep down, she does not really believe in these laws. Those opposite have been dragged kicking and screaming, so the motion to defer the second reading debate has been moved so they can sleep easily at night. It is not so they can protect Queenslanders—people like Vyleen White and all those others who paid a heavy price after the years of neglect by the Labor Party.

This motion is about deferring, delaying and failing to take action. Queenslanders spoke in October last year about that sort of government. They said, 'We've had enough of a government that is not going to take action. We've had enough of a government that is not going to protect victims' rights. We've had enough of a government that has presided over a decade of lawlessness and increasing crime in our suburbs.' They said, 'Delay is not what we want anymore. What we want is action—considered, reasonable action.' That is what this bill is all about.

Pausing the debate on this bill, as this motion seeks to do, simply compounds the Labor errors of the last 10 years. It means the same thing. It means another week without a law that will protect someone from the list of offences that were recommended by the panel. It means another week when young offenders are not held accountable for their actions. It means another week when another family goes through the pain and the agony of being a victim of an offence like those that are covered by this law. That is what Labor stand for. Labor do not stand for standing up for victims. They do not stand for the rule of law. They do not stand for the determination the people of Queensland made on 26 October. They are still fighting the old battle. They have not come to grips with the fact that their policy position was rejected by the people of Queensland in a fair, proper and democratic election. That decision has been vindicated in this place. We are seeing it in terms of the numbers that are coming through. The Attorney-General and the minister have reported on the impact and the effect it is having, together with the police minister's work.

We are delivering on our commitment to the people of Queensland. We are doing it in the way we said we would. We passed the first tranche of these laws in December, despite those opposite moving a very similar motion then. I remember the motion they moved in relation to the provision of tables of advice. They have rewritten it and moved it again this time around. It is the same work. They have not even come up with a new idea. All they have is the same: delay and obfuscation.

Mr DICK: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker: relevance again. The honourable member—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): I have not given you the call yet, member for Woodridge. Do you have a point of order?

Mr DICK: My apologies, Deputy Speaker; I thought you were looking at me. On relevance, the honourable member has not mentioned the Expert Legal Panel once.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, I have been listening carefully to the member for Clayfield's contribution and his views on the impact of the motion that has been moved, and I find that he has been relevant to that motion.

Mr NICHOLLS: I did actually say that these were the recommendations of the expert panel. I think I said it on a number of occasions in relation to offences that had been recommended by the expert panel that would not otherwise be in place if this bill was not passed this week. That is the simple fact of the matter. Those offences would not be in place if the Labor Party's motion to delay passage of the bill was passed.

Other spurious arguments have been made, without them putting any of their own arguments in this place. They should come in and make the argument in this place. They should tell the people of Queensland why they do not support these laws. They should not rely on someone else to do their homework for them. They should walk in here and make the argument. This is where people have the debate, the parliament of Queensland—not out there in the newspapers and not out there on TV. This is the place where you stand up, be counted and make the case as to why something should work, and nothing I have heard so far in the debate has made that case. They hide behind others and they hide behind process, but they fail to make the case to the people of Queensland as to why this legislation should not be passed this week. This is just another attempt to do so.

They have made other attempts, like talking about other reports and other bodies making their reports. I heard the CCC mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition. When it comes to reports from the CCC, the Leader of the Opposition has form. I mention the former member for South Brisbane and the former public trustee and the reports they did not want published. They failed to publish them. They spent taxpayers' dollars on it, refused to answer questions at estimates and more. When it comes to providing information in terms of responses to reports, I will back this side of the House over that side of the House every day of the week. Here is the ultimate question: are they going to vote in support of the legislation or not? Are they going to stand on principle and protect Queenslanders or are they going to play politics? I move—

That the question be now put.