



Speech By
Janelle Poole

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

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YOUTH JUSTICE (ELECTRONIC MONITORING) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (12.14 pm): It is an absolute pleasure to stand here and contribute to the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025. It is a great pleasure to stand on this side of the House where we stand with victims of crime. Everything that we do on this side of the House is about driving down victim numbers. It is about strengthening laws, not weakening laws. We have seen a decade of decline. We saw chaos from the other side of the House when they were in government. Townsville, in particular, saw that as they were the epicentre of the youth crime crisis.

I take members back to when I was proudly serving as a member of the Queensland Police Service. I think that gives me the credibility to stand here in this chamber and say that I saw firsthand what the weakening of the youth justice laws did under the former Labor government. They drove up victim numbers. Labor were on the side of the offenders. The Crisafulli LNP government are about restoring consequences for actions and driving down victim numbers. Everything we do is about strengthening the legislation.

I commend the minister and the committee for the work they have put into this bill. This bill will give Queensland some of the strongest youth bail monitoring laws in our country. Our community are crying out for support. They are crying out for a strong government that has their back. This bill will: make electronic monitoring permanent by removing the expiry provision; make electronic monitoring statewide; remove the current eligibility criteria, including the 15-year-old age limit; and simplify the matters which the courts must have regard to when deciding whether an electronic monitoring condition is appropriate.

I spoke in the chamber when we brought in the Adult Crime, Adult Time bill and, as I just said, everything we do on this side of the House is about strengthening the legislation. I spoke during the Adult Crime, Adult Time debate about two young boys aged 11 and 12 who were going fishing for the day on the weekend—as they should be allowed to do. They were held up at knifepoint by three juveniles who stole their bikes and all of their fishing equipment. Those youths were already on bail.

Government members interjected.

Mrs POOLE: It was absolutely shameful. I also spoke about a 19-year-old girl who works two jobs and contributes to our community. She was driving to work at seven o'clock in the morning and she was faced with a stolen car being driven at her head-on by youths who were on bail. I would like to speak about Lynette, an elderly lady in our community who appeared at the committee hearing in Townsville. I commend Lynette for her strength in being able to tell her story. Her home was broken into, she was held at knifepoint and her car was stolen. At the public hearing Lynette said—

If they are out on bail we need to know that they are being monitored. When they are out on bail then our safety is at risk ...

She wanted them monitored, and I echo those words. On this side of the chamber, we are a consultative government, we listen to our community and we act on what our community needs.

Let me be absolutely clear: electronic monitoring for youth on bail has been evaluated. We saw the other side of the House have a trial for two years. Four youths, three in Townsville, were given electronic monitoring devices. They extended the trial and a total of zero youths in Townsville were put on that trial. We do know it works; we have evaluated it: 24 per cent reduction in the likelihood of reoffending. There is the evidence right there and that is what our community is calling out for.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member, please take your seat. Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.