



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

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YOUTH JUSTICE (ELECTRONIC MONITORING) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (11.41 am): I rise to speak on the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025. This bill will give Queensland some of the strongest youth bail monitoring laws in the country. The LNP Crisafulli government is determined to make a change and be tough on crime. I know that my community of Thuringowa is expecting, and deserves, change. We stood at the election on the promise of delivering tougher laws, ones that are amongst the strongest in the nation, and that is exactly what we are focused on delivering.

This bill is the first step towards strong bail laws. These laws stand out for several key reasons, not just because they impose stricter bail conditions. My electorate of Thuringowa, unfortunately, endured 10 years of no action on youth crime by the former Labor government and developed a reputation for having elevated levels of lawlessness. The residents were fed up. They want no stone left unturned in our efforts to reduce the scourge of youth crime that has plagued our communities for far too long. This bill represents a critical step forward, but we must continue to prioritise early intervention and rehabilitation as core necessities to ensure youth crime declines.

It is worth reflecting on the long and complicated history of Labor's failed electronic monitoring trial, which underscores why this bill is so urgently needed. Introduced in 2021 as a two-year trial, it was an abysmal failure from the outset. Despite warnings from the LNP, the former Labor government pressed ahead. In the first year alone only four youth offenders had an electronic monitoring device order imposed as a bail condition. This made it impossible to complete a proper evaluation, as Labor's own review later confirmed, as it failed to even assess the effectiveness of electronic monitoring in deterring offending behaviour due to there being insufficient participants.

Labor's mishandling did not stop there. In 2023 they extended the trial for another two years with piecemeal changes. By August 2024 they had added more trial locations while amending regulations. Critically, they failed to extend the sunset clause. This left no realistic timeframe for a comprehensive evaluation of the changes before the trial lapsed. Under Labor, the program was doomed to remain limited and ineffective, with restrictive eligibility criteria that excluded most youth offenders and confined it to select areas, ensuring it never reached its potential to protect communities like Thuringowa.

The people of Thuringowa have lived through years of feeling unsafe in their own homes, shops and streets; having cars stolen in the night; having homes broken into; and having businesses vandalised, often by the same small group of repeat offenders who cycle through the system with little consequence. The former Labor government let this crisis fester. A decade of weak responses left communities like mine bearing the brunt. Thuringowa became a symbol of what happens when youth crime is met with inaction: escalating incidents, declining community confidence and a sense that lawlessness is the norm.

Families have told me directly they backed the LNP on election day because we promised real change, tougher consequences, better deterrence and a focus on making streets safer. They voted for us because they wanted action, not excuses. They wanted a government that would prioritise victims over endless leniency. This Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill delivers on that promise.

By making electronic monitoring a permanent feature of our bail system, we are sending a clear message: if you are granted bail as a young offender you will be held accountable. There are no more sunset clauses or limited trials. This is statewide, practical and enforceable. Importantly, the bill expands access sensibly. Removing the outdated 15-year-old age limit and eligibility restrictions means courts can apply this tool where it is needed most—on serious repeat offenders who pose a genuine risk to the community. By simplifying the considerations for courts, we reduce unnecessary red tape while still ensuring decisions are made carefully and always with community safety front of mind. The safeguards are built in.

We know that this is not the full answer. Tough enforcement must go hand in hand with prevention and support. We must continue to invest in early intervention programs that catch at-risk youth before they enter the cycle. Mentoring, education pathways, mental health support, family services—these are essential to turning lives around.

In Thuringowa, I have heard from parents who are desperate for help for their struggling teens, from victims who just want to feel safe again and from police who see the same faces over and over. This bill gives us one more layer of protection while we build those broader supports. It is about balance, consequences for actions and pathways out of crime. The Crisafulli government are delivering what we promised: we are restoring safety to where people live; we are putting victims first; and we are giving Queensland some of the strongest youth bail monitoring laws in the nation. I commend this bill to the House.