



Speech By
Wayde Chiesa

MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK

Record of Proceedings, 12 February 2026

YOUTH JUSTICE (ELECTRONIC MONITORING) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr CHIESA** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (11.16 am): I rise to speak in support of the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025. Hinchinbrook is a strong and proud regional electorate. From Tully Heads through to Townsville's northern suburbs, people know their neighbours and look out for one another. When crime happens in our community, it is never anonymous; it is personal. When a car is stolen, it may be the only way that a tradie gets to work or a parent takes their kids to school. When a home is broken into, it is not just property that is taken; it is peace of mind. When repeat offenders are released back into the community without meaningful supervision, it is our community that carries the risk.

During the Hinchinbrook by-election, one of the clearest messages that I heard at doors, community meetings and polling booths was that people want bail to mean something. They want real consequences for breaches and enforceable supervision when a court grants bail. During the campaign I said plainly that if you breach bail then you should go to jail. The Crisafulli government is listening and this bill is another step forward to stronger youth bail laws that put the rights of victims first, hold offenders accountable and help make Queensland safer.

It is worth remembering why we are here. Electronic monitoring was trialled for several years under the former Labor government but it was plagued by stop-start decision-making and narrow, restricted eligibility. In the first year, only four youth offenders were ordered to wear a device, including just one in Townsville.

The Education, Arts and Communities Committee tabled its report on 4 February 2026 with one recommendation: that the bill be passed. The bill will make electronic monitoring permanent and available statewide unless services are not available in the area. It will remove current eligibility restrictions and simplify the matters a court must consider. Put simply, it will give courts across Queensland the ability to order GPS monitoring as a bail condition for young people aged 10 to 17, where appropriate, rather than limiting it to a narrow cohort in limited locations.

For regional communities such as Hinchinbrook, this matters. Electronic monitoring supports police as an early warning system. It can help enforce curfews and exclusion zones, detect breaches quickly in real time and help police respond sooner and with better information to prevent further harm. It also strengthens victim protection, giving families greater confidence that bail conditions are being followed. Importantly, this approach is evidence informed. The independent evaluation found that electronic monitoring was associated with reduced reoffending and lower victimisation while a young person was on bail, including a 24 per cent reduction in the likelihood of reoffending when wearing a device. It is not a silver bullet but it is meaningful.

The court will only apply electronic monitoring where support services and coverage are available—safeguards that are embedded in the legislation. We all know it must be paired with wraparound supports. That is why we are delivering \$44.3 million in bail supports in four years and

\$75 million over four years to save and expand youth co-responder teams statewide. Doing nothing has a cost and weak bail compliance has a cost—and that cost is paid by victims, families and frontline police. For those reasons, I commend the bill to the House.