

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 814**  
**Asked on 16th June 2021**

**MRS L GERBER** ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent issues revealed in Townsville Children's Court where the 4G service in the region was found to be insufficient for GPS trackers – will the Minister identify any locations on the Gold Coast where the 4G service is not able to support the continuous 24-hour monitoring via a GPS tracker as a condition of bail?

ANSWER:

During my second reading speech on *the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill* I advised the House that the terms “tracking” and “tracker” were offensive to First Nations people and that these terms were therefore removed from the legislation. I reiterate this position and request that the Member refrains from the use of terminology out of respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Electronic monitoring has worked successfully in Queensland's judicial system for over a decade. The Queensland Police Service and Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) are very experienced in using this technology and the systems used are among world's best practice. I am advised that the electronic monitoring devices used in Queensland are continuously monitored 24/7.

I have been advised by QCS that the majority of the populated areas of Queensland, including regional cities like the Gold Coast and Townsville may, for example, have sufficient network coverage for 24/7 electronic monitoring.

As is the case across Australia (and the world for that matter), there will always be examples of limited network coverage in some areas which may mean that electronic monitoring is not practical as an exclusive supervision strategy for an offender or alleged offender. In those circumstances, other alternatives are sought, which could include remanding the individual in custody or requiring the individual to live or undertake daily activities in another location, for example.

It is important to note that telecommunications is a constitutional responsibility of the Federal Government.