




Speech By  
**Mark Boothman**

**MEMBER FOR THEODORE**

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### **QUEENSLAND COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (4.32 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Queensland Community Safety Bill. This bill amends 14 different acts. It was introduced on 1 May 2024 and submissions closed on 16 May, which means there were only two weeks for affected people to be consulted on this very important bill. If there had been more consultation on this bill, even before the original bill was tabled, fewer negative concerns would have been raised and we probably could have negated most of the concerns that submitters put forward. The bill amends the Childrens Court Act 1992, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Criminal Code, the Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, the Explosives Act 1999, the Judicial Review Act 1991, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Police Service Administration Act 1990, the Public Safety Preservation Act 1986, the Summary Offences Act 2005 and the list goes on.

Given what my local residents see happening on our streets and in our local community, a lot of them simply say, 'This has to end.' These days, criminal individuals are so emboldened that we need laws to protect police and emergency vehicles from being ramraided. It is absolutely ridiculous that we have come to the point where criminal individuals are no longer fleeing from the police; they are running at them.

In my area, residents Grant and Duncan own a business that has been broken into many times. They have had stock taken and facilities damaged. They have to pay extensive excess on their insurance and their insurance premiums keep rising. This is happening in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis. Pat is a local resident who showed me some shocking footage of youth offenders breaking into his house. He is lucky that his wife did not disturb the intruders as they were armed when they broke in. If she had disturbed them then she could be another statistic. While no-one knows what they would have done to Pat's wife, we can imagine how horrific it could have been. Jan had been a victim of multiple break-ins at her home. Offenders lifted the garage door, entered her home and stole property. She said that in the end she gave up. She decided to sell her home and move to a gated estate, where she feels safer. Members can understand the anger felt by residents given the situation we are in today. That situation has been 10 years in the making following the 2015-16 changes to the law.

As a member of the committee that looked at this bill, I want to express some concerns I have. In our statement of reservation, we wrote about online social media posts. I understand the government's intent in trying to stop individuals from boasting about their behaviours to garner support from their friends so that they can feel big and powerful. However, throughout history there have been some very pivotal moments that have garnered the support of our fellow constituents to progress change in relation to something that was deemed to be unjust. That is why that matter was raised in the statement of reservation. I acknowledge that the minister will be moving some amendments in relation to that, which are welcome.

I highlight the amendments to be moved by the shadow minister relating to drive-by shootings. Unfortunately, over many years the northern Gold Coast has been subjected to illegal criminal activity where elements of organised crime, you could say, have done drive-by shootings. Making this a separate offence could result in better data and a stronger penalty would apply when individuals are sentenced. For instance, if passed, the shadow minister's amendment would increase the maximum penalty to 14 years imprisonment. If it was an organised crime activity, the maximum penalty would be 16 years imprisonment.

When it comes to drive-by shootings, a lot of innocent people are put in harm's way. That is why this offence needs to be clamped down on. Back in 2018, an article in the local newspaper on the Gold Coast said, 'Police are yet to lay charges in three urban shootings on the Gold Coast in the past two months.' For this reason, we certainly need to have a clampdown on these offences.

If there had been far better consultation on the bill in relation to firearm prohibition orders a lot of the concerns could have been alleviated, as the member for Scenic Rim has spoken about quite eloquently. When putting bills together, the government needs to ensure that proper consultation is undertaken. Two weeks is certainly not enough, and it is not enough for individuals to put forward their viewpoints and concerns.

There are many other members who wish to speak to this bill so I will conclude by saying that Queenslanders are sick and tired of dealing with this youth crime crisis. People are paying more for car insurance. People are having to pay their insurance excess even though they are the victims. It is not their fault that they have been the victim of malicious acts by these young criminals, yet they are the ones getting punished by having to pay excesses and higher insurance premiums. This has to stop.

Queenslanders will have a clear choice at the next state election in October: continue down the path we are on or seek change with the LNP, which will get tough on crime and will make a difference. We will ensure that if you do an adult crime you will do adult time.