1. The Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 (the Bill) amends various laws to enhance the delivery of efficient, quality, front line services.
2. The Bill expands the existing police banning notice regime to apply to adults who unlawfully possess a knife in licensed premises, a public place in a safe night precinct and public events where alcohol is sold.
3. The Bill also creates a court-based removal order scheme for sentenced or remanded prisoners in police custody to assist police. This addresses the current situation where prisoners can only be removed to assist police when in Queensland Corrective Services’ custody.
4. To assist in Queensland’s participation in illicit drug profiling programs, the Police Commissioner will be authorised to provide samples of forfeited drugs no longer required by police or the courts, to the chief executive officer of nominated entities.
5. Reportable sex offender provisions under the *Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004* have been extended to include an additional nine Commonwealth child sex offences. This will ensure perpetrators of new and emerging child sex offences are captured under the child protection offender reporting regime.
6. The Bill amends the *Corrective Services Act 2006* (CSA) to introduce a new framework for parole decisions that affect a life sentenced prisoner who has committed multiple murders or murdered a child (restricted prisoner). This includes a discretion for the President of the Parole Board Queensland (the Board) to declare that a restricted prisoner not be considered for parole for up to 10 years. The amendments also provide that a restricted prisoner subject to such declaration meets a higher threshold for exceptional circumstances parole. When a declaration is not in force, the Bill creates a presumption against parole placing the onus on a restricted prisoner to demonstrate they do not present an unacceptable risk.
7. Additional amendments to the CSA will strengthen the ‘No Body, No Parole’ framework. The amendments introduces a new discretion for the Board to consider a prisoner’s cooperation in locating a homicide victim’s remains at any time after sentencing, instead of requiring the Board to wait until the prisoner applies for parole. Where the Board has determined that a ‘No Body No Parole’ prisoner has not co-operated satisfactorily (no cooperation declaration), the prisoner is restricted from reapplying for parole where there is no new cooperation.
8. Further amendments support the Board’s effective operations.
9. A new indictable offence is created in the *Police Service Administration Act 1990* and CSA: to seriously injure or kill a police dog, corrective services dog, or police horse, is punishable by a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment.
10. Cabinet approved that the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 (the Bill) be introduced into the Legislative Assembly.
11. *Attachments*
* [Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)
* [Statement of Compatibility with the *Human Rights Act 2019*](Attachments/SoC.PDF)