

CASTLE LAW

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VICTIMS OF CRIME FIRST.
WE WON'T STOP FIGHTING
FOR THEIR RIGHT TO
DEFEND THEMSELVES**





**KATTER'S
AUSTRALIAN PARTY**

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The Problem

Queensland is facing a surge in crime, with an 11.2% increase in the state's crime rate in 2022-23, including more than 51,000 break-and-enter incidents. Current laws place an excessive burden on victims of crime to prove their actions are "necessary" when defending themselves, their families and their properties.

The Solution: Castle Law

The KAP's Castle Law is based on the legal principle that recognises a person's right to defend their home against intruders without facing legal consequences. This isn't a new idea. Castle Law's roots can be found in English common law as far back as 1604.

Castle Law will provide clear legal protection for people defending themselves and their property from intruders. The changes will give legal protection when using force to repel intruders, creating peace of mind for people in a frightening, threatening situation.

Under the current law, people must demonstrate they have only used "necessary" force under the "reasonable belief" that the intruder was entering their home to commit a serious crime.

The KAP knows that this is an unreasonable ask. People cannot always make split-second, measured decisions in moments of crisis.

Key Changes with Castle Law:

- Expands the definition of "premises" to include homes, vehicles, caravans, and other living spaces.
- Allows occupants to act if an intruder enters at night, is or pretends to be armed, uses threats, damages or threatens to damage property, or is with one or more other people.
- Reduces the risk when faced with the need to make split-second decision under stress.
- Supports people who believe their actions are necessary to prevent harm or stop a crime.



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Benefits for Queenslanders:

- **Enhanced Safety:** Gives people the confidence to protect themselves and their families.
- **Crime Deterrence:** Sends a strong message that home invasions will not be tolerated.
- **Peace of Mind:** Victims of crime will know that the law is on their side in times of crisis.

The KAP has been talking to victims of crime about this issue for years, and the feedback is clear: Queenslanders need the right to defend themselves without the fear of legal repercussions when faced with a home invasion!