



Speech by

Mr L. SPRINGBORG

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

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POSITIVE POLITICS AGENDA

Mr SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition (10.28 a.m.): As this government is getting on with its agenda of sending Queensland broke, the Liberal-National coalition in Queensland is getting on with its positive politics agenda. Recently, Bob Quinn and I announced the first of our new policies for Queenslanders, which will be about enhancing the lifestyle and safety of Queenslanders. We announced a first for Australia, and that is crime reduction targets for various categories of crime. This is an innovative approach to reducing crime around Queensland and it is something which Queenslanders have received very, very well.

What we announced as part of that positive politics agenda was that in the case of property crime, including break and enters and car thefts, we would be aiming to reduce it by one-third over three years. In the case of assaults, we would be aiming to reduce assaults, including sexual assaults, by one-third over five years. We also undertook to tell Queenslanders how we were going to do that in a staged way over the next eight months by 16 individual statements.

Today I am announcing that, to improve the safety of Queenslanders insofar as assaults and sexual assaults are concerned, a coalition government in this state would make a condition of release of sexual offenders that they must complete a sexual offenders rehabilitation course. In the last four years, 468 prisoners in Queensland have been released without undertaking a sexual offenders rehabilitation course. That is absolutely inexcusable. What it does is let these predators loose in Queensland without so much as completing that course and it puts our most vulnerable citizens, particularly our women and children, at risk.

We will also be putting in place a plan whereby sexual offenders deemed not to be rehabilitated, even at the end of their sentence, would be able to be kept inside. When we announced this three years ago, the then Attorney-General said that it was not necessary.