



Speech by

**Jarrold Bleijie**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

Hansard Wednesday, 15 June 2011

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## LAW AND ORDER

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.04 pm): This government is bereft of ideas and is a backflipping government, nowhere more so than on law-and-order issues. The recent escalation of armed robberies on the Gold Coast is of great concern and it is time to restore some order. The problem is that punishment so often does not serve as an adequate deterrent and does not reflect community values.

This long-term Labor government has a legacy of soft sentencing principles, and for armed robberies the statistics are poignant. Figures released currently show that, of the 906 offenders who were sentenced for aggravated robbery, including armed robbery, in the past three years, only 111 were sentenced to more than five years jail. The maximum penalty for this offence is life imprisonment. But out of 906 only 111 served more than five years jail. There is a massive crisis of confidence in the existing sentencing laws and urgent action is needed to address this imbalance.

I note the Sentencing Advisory Council, which was set up by the government to steer it in the direction of minimum mandatory non-parole periods. I table a copy of the terms of reference for the Sentencing Advisory Council.

*Tabled paper:* Terms of Reference—Sentencing Advisory Council [\[4673\]](#).

The last paragraph states in part—

The Sentencing Advisory Council is to report to the Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations by 30 June 2011.

However, I note that the Attorney-General is now saying that it is to report by September. When did the extension of three months happen? In two weeks time we should have had responses and results, but now it will not be until September. I have not seen any indication of an extension being granted or of what the issues are.

The government wants to talk about policy. How about this policy? Campbell Newman called for the establishment of a major crime squad on the Gold Coast. The government said at the time, 'It's not necessary. We don't need it.' What happened two weeks later? The Premier announced a major crime squad on the Gold Coast. On and on it goes with the government copying ideas. On the issue of GPS tracking devices, Campbell Newman said that offenders should be tracked; the government said no. What happened then? The Premier announced it.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr ROBERTS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is misleading the House. The member for Clayfield said on 3 June that the LNP was thinking about GPS monitoring. It announced its decision that it would do it after the government already announced that it would.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr O'Brien): Order! The minister is engaging in debate. There is no point of order.