




Speech by

Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Hansard Thursday, 2 August 2012

TOWNSVILLE, CRIME

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government) (2.44 pm): I rise to speak about something near and dear to my heart: law and order. I will keep banging on about this matter, as I know will the members for Townsville and Thuringowa. We have seen over recent years what happens when government is on autopilot: nothing gets done.

The other day I posted a survey to some of my constituents and I want to report to the House the results of that survey. Eighty-two per cent of people who responded to that survey listed crime as one of the top 3 issues that affect them. More than 50 per cent of those listed it as No. 1. Today in the House we saw the Premier table a petition containing over 5,000 signatures from people who want boot camp action. North Queenslanders have had enough. They want to see tougher sentences for repeat offenders, they want to see accountability and they want to see boot camp trials.

I will outline a few things that have happened in recent times in our great part of the state. We have had three serious armed robberies with knives, a bashing and a stabbing—all in the past five days alone. Last weekend in Townsville saw the carjacking of a 65-year-old woman while her husband parked their car and went into a corner store. I can only imagine how harrowing that was for her. The carjackers then drove to Willows Mini Mart and conducted an armed robbery. That minimart is owned by a great personal friend of mine, Mr Anthony Pedrini. I can only imagine what a terrible ordeal that was for his young staff members. Also in my electorate, at the Riverside Foodworks there was an armed robbery of two women in their 20s. There were also incidents at the chemist at Annandale and at the Palmerston Street servo.

The north will not just sit back and take this. I am not suggesting vigilante action but the sort of northern enterprise that was shown when Helen Parkinson posted on Facebook on 11 June that her car had been stolen. Tens of thousands of people knew about that. I would like to acknowledge the great work of the local newspaper, the *Townsville Bulletin*, in making that cause known.

This government recognises the community's anger and intends to protect them with tougher sentencing and other measures, such as charging guilty offenders some of the administration costs of their court appearance. That is why I rose in the House earlier this week to support the Penalties and Sentences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, and it is why I will speak in support of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill in due course. We are serious about protecting our communities, remembering that it is our job to safeguard the victim. Let the criminals know that the Newman government has them in its sights. We will again let decent, law-abiding citizens know that the streets belong to them, not thugs.