




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Mundingburra Electorate, Youth Crime

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (2.51 pm): I rise to speak on an issue that I have spoken about before in this House and will continue to speak about until we get action. It is the issue of youth crime. I acknowledge the presence in the chamber of the Attorney—it is great to have him here and he has been a great supporter—and, most importantly, pardon the pun, my two partners in crime from the north, the member for Townsville and the member for Thuringowa.

I have spoken before about the issues of violence, bullying and robberies. Today I want to talk about vehicle theft and some of the high-speed chases that are going on in our great city. I must acknowledge the work that the Attorney has done. In August we increased penalties for motorists attempting to outrun police to a mandatory \$5,500 fine and a two-year loss of licence. Late last year some of the nation's toughest anti-hooning laws, which sees dangerous drivers facing the prospect of their car being crashed or forfeited if they are caught hooning twice within five years, came in. They could not have come soon enough and there is a long way to go.

Recent figures show that vehicle thefts in Queensland have increased at a rate of knots over the last five years. But it is on the ground where I am truly blown away by some of the stories. I was in a taxi the other night and I asked the driver how often he worked. He said he worked seven nights a week. I asked why he had such dedication. He said because they are struggling to get drivers because of the concern that young hoodlums are racing around in stolen motor vehicles.

Today I would like to start a conversation in my community about police pursuits. It is an issue that the commissioner and the minister have said will be discussed over the course of this year, and I welcome that. I will always back the police officers with their knowledge on the ground. What I have seen in recent times though is a culture where these little grubs taunt police. They go up beside police, spin their wheels and rev their engines and know that they can speed away because they are a protected species. That has to end.

I understand that we need to find a balance between the tragedy of an innocent person being killed in a chase and the open slather that is occurring now. I suppose the question to my community is: is the risk of having these turkeys racing around at 200 kilometres an hour on suburban streets a greater danger than a police pursuit or the threat of a police pursuit? That is the question I want to pose today.

Has the pendulum swung too far in the other direction? It is a conversation we must have. It is something that the officers on the ground are best placed to make a decision on. I would hope that their input is paramount as this debate unfolds. Above all, all I want is a safe city for my kids to be able to drive around in into the future.