




Speech By
Hon. Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Youth Boot Camp Trial

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.57 am): The Newman government is committed to breaking the cycle of youth crime and getting positive outcomes for the youth justice system in Queensland. The government has already delivered the first step towards reforming the youth justice system, with the establishment of two youth boot camps and the announcement of a review of the Youth Justice Act. It gave me great pleasure on the one-year anniversary of the Newman government to accompany the Premier as we announced three additional boot camps in Rockhampton, the Fraser Coast and Townsville, although in Townsville Manpower was in town so the Premier and I did compete for air time. But I am pleased to say that the Townsville community accepted the boot camps with open arms. This announcement will bring the total number of boot camps in Queensland to five.

The early intervention youth boot camp run by the Kokoda Challenge on the Gold Coast commenced in February this year. I look forward to visiting Kokoda's Lake Maroon property with the Premier and Kokoda's patron, Keith Payne VC, on 8 May this year. The sentenced youth boot camp in Cairns is also up and running, with two children having been sentenced to boot camp orders by the court. A sentenced youth boot camp will be introduced in Townsville to address the increasing number of young offenders committing serious and dangerous crimes in the area. The early intervention youth boot camp program is being expanded to reach kids in Rockhampton and the Fraser Coast. While I am on Rockhampton, let me deal with the member for Rockhampton. An article in the local paper states—

A Rockhampton man whose business has suffered at the hands of countless youth offenders over the years yesterday backed the Newman Government's plan for a boot camp.

In the same article it states—

Rockhampton MP Bill Byrne was sceptical of how effective the boot camp would be.

So his community is calling out for boot camps, yet the member for Rockhampton does not want boot camps. He does not want the investment. Even the member for Dalrymple, Shane Knuth, supports boot camps in Queensland.

We are getting on with the job and delivering for youth justice right around Queensland. Young people must take responsibility for their actions. As part of this plan, I would encourage all Queenslanders to fill out the blueprint for youth justice survey, which is online. I am pleased to report to the House that, in the few short days that it was online, over 2,000 responses were received. I thank the Queensland community. I thank members on this side of the House for supporting such important reforms to youth justice in Queensland.