




Speech By  
**Hon. Jarrod Bleijie**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Youth Boot Camps**

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (2.12 pm): This Newman government is serious about tackling the issues of youth crime in the state. This is why we expanded the trial of youth boot camps on 24 March 2013. The addition of three new youth boot camps included the early intervention youth boot camps, to be trialled at the Fraser/Sunshine Coast and Rockhampton, and the sentenced youth boot camp, to be trialled in the Townsville region. Additionally, the Cairns youth boot camp was returned to the expressions-of-interest stage to find a suitable experienced boot camp provider for the remainder of the trial in the region.

I was pleased this morning to visit Hervey Bay with the members for Hervey Bay and Maryborough as we announced the new boot camps in Queensland. I am pleased to advise the House that Beyond Billabong has been selected to deliver the super sentenced youth boot camp across both the Townsville and Cairns regions. The early intervention boot camps will be delivered by Operation Hard Yakka on the Fraser/Sunshine Coast. I thank Bob Davis for again putting me through the rope course this morning and I thank the members for Hervey Bay and Maryborough for being my spotters. And the PCYC in Rockhampton will deliver the early intervention camp.

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General will work closely with these providers to ensure the youth boot camps are operational as soon as possible. The government made a clear commitment as part of its Safer Streets Crime Action Plan to trial these camps with the aim of reducing instances of youth offending within our community. The announcement of these providers ensures this commitment is fulfilled.

The boot camps are an important part of the Queensland government's overhaul of the youth justice system. The Newman government is trying something different—to intervene at an early stage to reduce the pool of high-risk young people and to break the cycle of youth crime for those who have already become entrenched in the criminal justice system. The previous government's slap-on-the- wrist approach has created a generation of arrogant repeat young offenders, with 36 per cent of offenders in detention having been there five times or more. These boot camps are the centrepiece in a raft of measures focused on putting a stop to the serious problem of youth crime.

In addition, this government has put a stop to the inappropriate spending at Cleveland Youth Detention Centre, including scuba-diving lessons, jumping castles and bucking bulls. It has also enacted legislation increasing the penalty for graffiti offences and has made it compulsory for graffiti offenders to clean up the mess. This is just the start of a long list of reforms by the Newman government to rebalance the scales of justice in this great state.