




Speech By
Hon. Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Youth Boot Camps

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.54 am): The people of Queensland wanted a strong government—a government that gets on with the job; a can-do government. The rollout of youth boot camps across the state continues to meet the commitment made to Queenslanders to break the cycle of repeat youth crime in this state left behind by the former Labor government. To this end, I am pleased to announce today that the location of the Cairns-Townsville super boot camp will be a remote property location called Lincoln Springs Station. Lincoln Springs Station is a remote cattle property approximately two hours west of Ingham, a mid-point between the camp's catchment areas of Cairns and Townsville. The closest neighbouring cattle stations are approximately two hours walking distance. I thank the members of North Queensland and Far North Queensland for their continued support of the rollout of boot camps across the state.

My department has consulted with residents on neighbouring cattle stations in the surrounding areas regarding the proposed location of the boot camp. I have also spoken personally with some of the residents regarding any concerns they may have. This week Mr Boyd Curran, the CEO of Beyond Billabong and the provider of the super boot camp, will also be meeting with the surrounding cattle station owners to address any further concerns they may have. I have spoken to both the member for Dalrymple and the local mayor, Frank Beveridge, and thanked them for their wholehearted support for the rollout of boot camps across the state.

The isolation of the property coupled with around-the-clock supervision and other security measures will ensure the community is kept safe. Comprehensive assessment through pre sentence reports will also ensure that only young offenders appropriate for the program will be eligible to participate. Beyond Billabong, as well as the other providers I have selected, has contemporary experience in working with high-risk youth with complex behaviours, a proven track record and the best possible chance of success in breaking the revolving door cycle of youth offending. They will participate in a highly structured program designed to teach them discipline and skills, develop resilience, address their offending behaviour and give them a chance to turn their lives around.

In terms of the early intervention boot camps, I recently announced that a fortnight ago 17 young people had commenced programs in Rockhampton and Fraser-Sunshine Coast boot camps. As for our first boot camp run at the Gold Coast, 15 young men have now completed the program, with our first cohort of five young women having recently commenced the program. I have heard many encouraging stories from participants in the Gold Coast boot camp. I still have parents writing to me from all over Queensland seeking a spot for their children in one of our boot camps. The camps aim to instil discipline, values and self-worth to address high-risk behaviour and divert young people from the youth justice system.

The opposition is all over the place when it comes to youth crime. It cannot make its mind up about what it wants to do to address the youth justice issues it left behind. It spent 20 years in office creating a generation of repeat young, arrogant offenders, with 30 per cent of young people having been in detention five times or more. When debating our new criminal justice legislation, not only do they have nothing constructive to contribute to the debate but they also act as if they hold the moral high ground because they can tolerate crime whilst the victims in their electorates suffer in silence. This government is about rebalancing the scales of justice. This government is about holding young offenders accountable and assisting those who want to make a change by diverting them away from the criminal justice system. We are doing everything we said we would do when elected in 2012. We are getting on with the job and we are delivering for Queenslanders.