




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Record of Proceedings, 8 May 2014

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Mundingburra Electorate, Community Survey

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (2.46 pm): When I come into this chamber it is a great honour to do so, but I do not do it as an individual; I do it as the representative for more than 20,000 people in a beautiful part of Townsville called Mundingburra. In order to be an effective representative you need to know the views of your community. You have to keep your finger on the pulse. That is why recently I embarked on Mundingburra's biggest community survey. I was absolutely floored with the response. Nearly 1,000 people took the time to give me their views. I say thank you very much to each and every one of them. There was a very great spread across that number in terms of both gender and where they live and that helps ensure that I know that it is a great cross-section of a beautiful part of our city.

The top three issues: No. 1, law and order; No. 2, jobs and cost of living; and No. 3, health. Whilst I will speak on Nos 2 and 3 shortly, I have to say it was daylight between No. 1 and the others. If there could have been a top three, law and order, law and order, law and order would have been the top three. The members for Townsville and Thuringowa know about it and we have unashamedly been on a crusade to do something about it. The changes to the act have been remarkable. This survey found that only 15.3 per cent of people thought the reforms were not a step in the right direction. That is music to our ears. We heard the cry from those opposite who voted against the legislation. We heard the cries from the minor parties who voted against the legislation because of the pressure that came from groups like Amnesty and other groups that, quite frankly, did not understand what was going on in our city.

I am not saying that one piece of legislative change can cure all ills and I am not saying that the additional 38 police officers are the silver bullet, but what a start it is. To stand on Castle Hill the other day with my colleagues and the Assistant Commissioner and see the number of homes less that had been broken into in the last 12 months—over 500—shows that we are making a difference. But there is so much more that needs to be done. When people like Carolyn of Douglas speaks about the assaults on police and the elderly and Greg from Vincent talks about his passion to see the naming and shaming of offenders to ensure that there is some deterrent, I know that we are on the right track. We will not sway from that. We will continue to push for tougher laws. We will continue to push for more police. That is what the people who put me here want and expect and that is what they will get.

In the time remaining I want to talk about the cost of living. Seventy per cent of people say that they support the measures that are being taken to get the budget under control, 19 per cent are unsure and 11 per cent are against. I thank Nicole of Anandale for being so raw in her emotion about her cost of living. In the years ahead we will continue to fight in these three key areas to make Townsville a better place.