



Speech By Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Graffiti

Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (9.50 am): While the majority of Queenslanders relish in the countless benefits that come with living and working in our great state, unfortunately, a minority does not treat society with the same amount of pride. Dealing with these people is not just the responsibility of one level of government. Right across the state, I see councils continuing their push to stamp out crime in their local areas and this government is well on its way to delivering safer lifestyles for all residents, but the work is far from over. Since my appointment as the local government minister, I have heard from mayors and councillors right across Queensland who are passionate about joining us in making local communities safer. They recognise the importance of crime prevention at a grassroots level, which makes me excited to work with them to help achieve that.

In the past, those opposite were soft on vandalism. This government has introduced strong laws that make vandals literally clean up their act. Earlier in the week we heard from the Attorney-General about the government's law reforms for graffiti removal. Those changes have slashed that senseless vandalism by more than 25 per cent across the state. At the last election, we promised to support councils with the prevention and management of graffiti. We have delivered on our promise by committing \$8 million over four years in the budget.

Whether it is a pedestrian bridge in Logan or a picnic table in Longreach, locals are proud of their community assets and they do not want them tagged by careless graffiti vandals. Councils are forced to spend millions of dollars cleaning up after those who have no respect for public property. As part of our strong plan, we are providing councils with the resources to tackle graffiti head-on. Each year, councils receive funding through base grants and grants for graffiti prevention. Cairns City Council has been proactive in using the funding to purchase a purpose-built trailer. The trailer is the second unit for Cairns and is being used on a weekly basis in known graffiti hotspots such as Mooroobool, Earlville, Woree, Redlynch, Edmonton and Gordonvale. Other projects include the Gold Coast Council's rapid removal of graffiti from hotspots and the Brisbane City Council's project that supports businesses across the city mitigate graffiti. In my home city of Townsville, over \$1,000 has been given to the council to combat the effects of graffiti.

In addition to the funding we provide to councils, we are funding Crime Stoppers to run the state-wide graffiti hotline. Members should also be aware of the GraffitiSTOP app that is available for free on both Android and iPhones. That funding along with the reforms from the government have made Queensland safer for families.