




Speech By
Hon. Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Justice Portfolio

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.50 am): The LNP government has a strong plan to deliver on our election commitments: to grow a four-pillar economy, restore accountability in government, revitalise front-line services, reduce red tape and regulation by 20 per cent, and make Queensland the safest place to raise a family. We have a strong plan to deal with the mess left by those opposite and the \$80 billion debt left by the chaotic failed Labor team. Under Labor, Queenslanders were disillusioned and had no confidence in government to take a strong stand against crime within the community. Under the Labor government clearance rates were low leading to increased costs and delays, individual responsibility was downplayed and excuses were made for offenders through Labor's weak approach to crime, which in turn created a revolving door of crime and juvenile detention. Labor's youth detention centres became remand lounges rather than reform centres for convicted offenders, and young offenders were not being held accountable for their crimes. Under Labor's weak laws, almost half of all convicted sex offenders were avoiding any prison time. Labor ignored complaint after complaint from victims and their families but failed to act and, therefore, put Queenslanders at risk from dangerous sex offenders.

Through Labor's failures to address organised crime and gun crime in Queensland, the state became a haven for criminal gangs, and drug-trafficking crime in Queensland doubled under the Labor government. Under Labor there were duplication and inefficiencies in the provision of community legal services. In addition, the Queensland community legal services were underfunded and underresourced and faced months of ongoing uncertainty. With respect to businesses, Labor failed them time and time again, strangling business activity and destroying any incentives for job creation in its mountain of red tape and regulation, for example, Labor's useless sustainability declarations and unnecessarily complex red and green tape.

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Do members remember the sustainability declarations? Labor's green and red tape made buying or selling a home harder than it needed to be. Labor's red tape, fees, levies and charges drained billions of dollars out of Queensland's business community which in turn increased the costs for consumers.

Under Labor, Queensland had no future. Contrast that to the LNP government: with a strong plan, Queenslanders have a bright future. Within Justice—one of many areas in which the government has made significant progress as part of this strong plan—we have cracked down on members of organised crime groups by introducing tough antigang laws. We introduced an offender levy to ensure that offenders contribute to the justice system in recognition of the cost of their crimes to the Queensland community. We have introduced mandatory life imprisonment for repeat sex offenders with a minimum non-parole period of 20 years. We have passed new drug-trafficking laws. We have introduced youth boot camp trials and reformed the Youth Justice Act to specifically target

repeat young offenders through naming and shaming laws, removing the principle of detention as a last resort, making juvenile criminal history admissible upon sentencing as an adult and transferring 17-year-olds to the adult prison.

We have introduced mandatory sentencing of one year imprisonment for a sex offender who removes the GPS monitoring bracelet. Early on we appointed a central coroner and a permanent coroner registrar and established the Queensland Courts Referral and the Indigenous Sentencing List bail based programs. We deployed an extra 27 mobile videoconferencing systems into Queensland courts, taking the number of videoconferencing systems from 153 to 180. Consistent with the government's commitment to revitalise front-line services and restore accountability in government, the government recently reformed the structure of the CCC to ensure that it remains Queensland's peak crime and corruption fighting body. The government has delivered an extra \$750,000 over three years to the Women's Legal Service, which was underfunded by the Labor government opposite. We reopened the Rural, Regional and Remote Women's Legal Advice line, gave an extra \$2 million over four years to support victims of crime groups and gave \$100 million to Queensland's community legal centres that we announced a few weeks ago. We are supporting businesses, the tourism industry and the construction industry as well as delivering savings through the reduction of red tape and regulation. We have reduced red tape and regulation for businesses by slashing directors' liabilities, removing 44 barriers for tourism businesses in the state and introducing four bills to split the Property Agents and Motor Dealers Act. We are currently reviewing the property laws. We have amended the workers compensation laws to ensure we have a fair system for both employer and employee. We are delivering a strong plan and that has resulted in 60,000 jobs being created in Queensland.

Today represents a great opportunity to deliver a brighter future for Queensland families and business. Unlike those chaotic individuals opposite, who have no plan, this government has a strong plan to deliver justice, support businesses and families, grow the economy and ensure a brighter future for all Queenslanders. My wife and I have an 11-year-old daughter, an eight-year-old daughter and a four-year-old son. I know that under this government's strong plan for the future my children and all Queenslanders will have a far brighter future.