




Speech By
Hon. Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, Report

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (6.03 pm): I thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for considering the budget estimates for 2014-15. I start by acknowledging, of course, the honourable chairman of that particular committee and all the members of the committee. It was a long day, but we all survived. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General has continued to deliver on our commitment to revitalising front-line services, making Queensland the safest place to live, work and, of course, raise a family. We do that under the four pillars of the Queensland economy. I am proud to say that the Department of Justice and Attorney-General not only deals with making Queensland the safest place to raise a family but also has a lot of red-tape reduction. I note that in her contribution to the debate, the shadow Attorney-General spoke about some of the estimates proceedings. I think it was a very good day. The questions were answered and the questions raised were legitimate in terms of the operation of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

I wish to talk for a few minutes about the positive impact that the policies of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General are having on the people of Queensland, particularly the mums, dads and families right around our electorates. Because it has been such an issue for the opposition, I will start by talking about the boot camps. Boot camps operate in the Maryborough and Hervey Bay electorates, and I acknowledge the local members in the House tonight. The Lincoln Springs boot camps operate in Cairns and Townsville and another boot camp operates on the Gold Coast. Despite all the rhetoric and the noise that the opposition is making about the boot camps, they cannot grapple with the fact that they are actually working and are achieving success. In fact, recently I read an article in the Rockhampton local newspaper in which the local member for Rockhampton said, 'If only the LNP government did the early intervention camps that the Labor Party proposed to do'. That is the issue: they proposed to do it, but they never did it. That is the difference. We support these issues with real action and people in our communities see it happen. I acknowledge the members from North Queensland and Far North Queensland who have been advocating for boot camps. We are seeing that 60 to 80 to 90 per cent of participants do not reoffend once they have been to a boot camp. They are not going back to detention centres; they are going through the boot camps and they are working.

Mr Dillaway: Even the parents support it.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take that interjection. This is about rebuilding relationships with families. It is about making sure that we are all working together to rebuild partnerships and relationships within families. Recently, I was in the electorate of Bulimba with the local member. We helped clean graffiti off a wall in a program that makes sure that offenders clean up graffiti. Mr Dillaway is indicating that he had a sore shoulder from the one stroke of paint that he put on a wall. I got paint on my shoes and trousers, but we cleaned the wall. We have had a 25 per cent reduction in graffiti offences right across the state.

I turn to the Safe Night Out Strategy. Alcohol related violence will not be tolerated in Queensland anymore and everyone is responsible for that. I thank the member for Brisbane Central for leading the implementation of the Safe Night Out Strategy. Fifteen safe night precincts will be operating around the state. We want to make sure that when young people go out, they know that a safe night out is a great night out and a great night out is a safe night out.

When talking about criminal gang reforms, I need not mention in this House, because it has been mentioned many times today by the police minister and the Premier, the great results that we are seeing with the dramatic drop in crime right across the state. That did not happen by accident; it happened because the government has the will and the determination to do it, and it has the members who are working in their electorates. We are making sure that we have the laws and the resources for the police so that all children and families are safe in their homes. I am the father of three beautiful children, Taylor, Madison and Jasper, and I want them to live in a world that is safe. Particularly as many mothers and fathers are away from their children because of work, or for whatever reason, I want to make sure that children live in a world that is safer than the one we inherited from the Labor government two and a half years ago. The police statistics that were released today show that certainly we are living in a safer world, and we support the men and women in blue on the beat.

We are re-empowering victims and giving them a voice in the justice system, which they have never had before. On behalf of all members, I thank the JPs who work in our communities. JPs do a fantastic job as commissioners for declarations. They are doing an amazing job in the trial for the JP QCAT program. We have seen weeks and weeks slashed off time frames. I thank all Department of Justice and Attorney-General staff for making this a great state with better opportunities for all our citizens.