



Speech By  
**Aaron Harper**


**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 November 2016

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Thuringowa Electorate, Crime**

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (7.00 pm): I rise tonight to speak about the ongoing crime issues affecting Townsville City and my electorate of Thuringowa. I am acutely aware of the impacts this is having on residents who phone, email and contact me daily. With our work recently—and I am proud to have been involved in the Stronger Communities whole-of-government response that was recently launched—I have full confidence that over a period of time this will reduce crime rates in our city with its intensive case management targeting those recidivist offenders.

However, as the local member for Thuringowa, I wanted to send a message that I continue to make representations to ministers like the Attorney-General, the Minister for Police, the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland and, in fact, the Premier herself. We all deserve to live in a safe community. The bashings that we have seen in Kirwan in my electorate are unacceptable. We have more work to do. To that end, I requested a meeting today with the Premier. I was joined with the members from Townsville and Mundingburra. I am pleased to say that the Premier listened to our joint concerns as we look forward to seeing some short-term solutions being considered over the coming days and implemented as soon as possible.

I want a safe community in Thuringowa. My constituents deserve to live in a safe community and be safe in their own homes. I commend the police. I have run with the police on a Friday night just recently doing curfew checks. They are doing a great job. They need more resources. I have written to the police minister, and I hope we do get more resources over a period of time. In saying that, I know that that Stronger Communities program will have an impact. They are talking with the broader community—elders, victims and families—on the intensive case management of those offenders. Again, over time I know that that will have an impact.

I was able to go to the Transition 2 Success inaugural graduation of the Upper Ross PCYC where 15 young people in the youth justice system were graduating after a three-month course where they learnt a range of lifelong skills to get them back into education, employment and training opportunities—to get them back on track and to get them working in our community. I congratulate everyone involved. We had our local Cowboys co-captain Matt ‘Thumper’ Scott there who is also engaging with the kids. Like me, he is invested in making a real change in young people’s lives.

I commend the program. I got to speak to some of the youths themselves. They told me that the three-month program had changed their lives. It is about turning their lives around. We will continue to work hard to address these issues in Townsville.