




Speech By  
**Tim Mander**

**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2016

**MOTION: LAW AND ORDER**

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (6.12 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the shadow Attorney-General. Let me say from the start that this side of the House supports police to the utmost. Nobody supports the police more than the LNP. Our attack is not on the police; our attack is on a government that will not support the police, that will not give them the resources and the policies to make sure that our crime rate stays down.

After my delivery in the parliament yesterday about crime rates in Townsville, I have received some astonishing feedback from the residents of Townsville. In the *Townsville Bulletin* we saw some of the lame responses from ministers of the current government. I want to focus on the feedback from people in Townsville and the responses from government ministers. I received an email last night. I will change his name and some of the details because I want to protect his identity. I would describe Gary as a gentle, polite, older gentleman whose wife is a teacher. He wrote to me to say this—

Just want to commend you on your stance in parliament yesterday on crime in Townsville ... I was a victim of a mugging just over a month ago where I was confronted for keys to a car that wasn't mine.

I was hit in the face with a handgun and the offender took off. I have lived in Heatley for 20 years and have walked these streets at night with no problems at all.

Crime in Townsville is the worst it's ever been. The courts need to be tougher on these young criminals as they are controlling the streets.

I work ... at night and I don't work alone anymore, it's too dangerous. I see kids as young as 12 roaming the streets as I drive to different sites every single night.

I know the solution is a hard one, but a curfew may help and maybe getting someone up here and patrolling with the police for a night may put some perspective into this problem.

On calling Gary today, he said that the police told him it is a joke. The perpetrators end up at Cleveland Detention Centre for a few weeks. Then they come out a few weeks later with even better ideas that they have learnt inside to go out and commit bigger and more serious crimes. This crime wave is having an impact on the cost of living for people in Townsville. Gary tells us that the car insurance on his wife's car has increased from \$100 to \$124 per month, because he believes he lives in the suburb of Heatley and they are being penalised for the crime that is taking place—a 24 per cent increase in car insurance because of the crime that is occurring in Heatley. It is not only the direct cost of crime but also the indirect cost which is affecting the residents of Townsville.

What do we hear from members opposite in response to yesterday's story? The member for Thuringowa boasted proudly on his Facebook page that the government has a three-point action plan that will solve the problem. One unimpressed local resident went to his website and said, 'Sounds more like a 3 step slap on the wrist to me'—a very insightful comment.

A spokesman for the Attorney-General was reported in the *Townsville Bulletin* yesterday saying that she will host a community forum on 6 June. I think I have heard since that there is a bevy of ministers going up there. On the *Townsville Bulletin* website Alan said—

That is their answer for everything, a community forum. The AG will turn up, look you in the eye, tell you she understands, recommends a board be formed before she gets back in her taxpayer funded jet to go back to Brisbane where she will tell the Premier everything will be fine.

The Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland, the member for Mundingburra, said she was 'extremely passionate about re-engaging Townsville's youth to proactively address the issues before young people turn to crime'. John said this—he is very insightful—'That is political mumbo jumbo for "I haven't got a clue. I have no idea what to do."' Peter said on the same website, 'We have 3 state Labor MPs in Townsville who are no better than the 3 wise monkeys. Our town is being overrun by juveniles who are immune to law and order.'

My message to the Premier is this: do not treat the people of Townsville as fools. They are sick of talkfests. They are sick of conferences. They are sick of rhetoric and they are sick of a do-nothing government that does nothing on crime.