




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2016

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (5.48 pm): I stand tonight to speak about the 2016 budget estimates. I will limit my comments to the areas of my shadow portfolio—police, fire and emergency services and corrective services. What have we learnt from the 2016 estimates hearing with regard to police? We did not hear anything new. What we had confirmed was that Labor is soft on crime. This is what the policies that the Labor government have implemented over the last 12 months have led to. In the last 12 months we have had assaults increase by 10 per cent. We have had robbery increase by eight per cent. We have had unlawful entry increase by three per cent. We have had motor vehicle theft increase by six per cent. This is despite the extra resources that we provided when we were in government. Despite those extra resources, we have still had an increase in crime because this government is ineffective in implementing any policy that will seriously combat crime.

What else did we learn? The people of Queensland need to be fearful about what is in store when they look at reversing the tough laws that we brought in to tackle criminal motorcycle gangs. On asking the commissioner about the effectiveness of closing down criminal motorcycle gang clubhouses, the effectiveness of the anti-association laws, the effectiveness of stopping, detaining and searching people, the commissioner said that these laws have been incredibly effective, but this government will do everything in its power to reverse them. Even in this morning's paper I read about an establishment at Nobby Beach that had their business burnt down. It is reported that the Hells Angels are back in town extorting money and threatening. These laws will be reversed because they are soft on crime.

We also heard about this minister who is putting his head in the sand with regard to our primary producers, our honest primary producers who for years, for decades, have responsibly used hand guns to euthanase animals that obviously need to be put out of their misery. This government is turning a blind eye to the fact that Weapons Licensing have changed their policy on this. The minister has the hide to call them 'lone cowboys', to insult responsible primary producers by calling them 'lone cowboys', with the record that he has in the handling of firearms.

Then there are the police vehicles. The police union is saying there are not enough police vehicles. I refer to the member for Beaudesert, who had an example in his electorate just recently where the police said, 'If there is one car out, we cannot go to any other call that we have.' They simply do not have enough vehicles. They are using bicycles and public transport to fight crime which is totally inappropriate.

When it comes to prisons, the record in prisons is even worse. Over the last 12 months overcrowding has increased on average by eight per cent right across the prison network. What has that led to? That has led to an increase in assaults on prison officers. Is that an increase of 10 per cent, 20 per cent or 50 per cent? There has been a 265 per cent increase in assaults on prison officers. This is a minister who claims he sticks up for prison officers but he lets the overcrowding continue with no

plan to address it. Riots were happening in Cleveland at the weekend. There are other reports about riots happening. Why? Because of the overcrowding that is taking place.

This is a minister who in 2012 when he was the spokesperson for corrective services said that the corrective services minister needs to take personal responsibility for the consequences of overcrowding. He is now shying away from those comments and showing the hypocrisy of those comments, because this minister is not in control of his portfolio. Crime has gone up. Prisons are still overcrowded. We have an ineffective government trying to deal with—

Mr Krause: Soft on crime.

Mr MANDER: I take the interjection—soft on crime.

(Time expired)