




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Townsville, Crime

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (10.27 am): This week there are two big issues in Townsville. First of all there is the grand final rematch between the Broncos and the Cowboys, and we will all be watching that with a lot of enthusiasm. There is another thing happening in Townsville at the moment which is causing great alarm in that community, and that is the escalating crime rate. The locals have had a gutful of the inaction of this Labor government.

This morning we heard the rhetoric from two ministers about another plan—another plan to tackle the escalating crime rates in Townsville. The best way to battle that rhetoric is to talk about the facts. If we compare the crime rates in this last 12 months under the Labor government with the last 12 months under the LNP government, the figures are absolutely startling. In that period of time homicides have increased by 150 per cent, robbery has increased by 36 per cent, break and enters have increased by 36 per cent and motor vehicle theft has increased by a whopping 81 per cent. Three months ago the police minister and the Attorney-General held a crime forum and promised the people of Townsville that they would have a comprehensive strategy to deal with the escalating crime rate.

Last week, we heard the response from the police minister. The comprehensive plan to tackle the escalating crime rate in Townsville is a doorknocking strategy—a hyped-up Neighbourhood Watch program that supposedly is going to address the increased criminal activity in Townsville. In fact, the minister said that it is not the perpetrator's fault; it is the fault of the law-abiding citizens of Townsville. I table an article in the *Townsville Bulletin* in which the minister said—

... people must accept a level of personal responsibility ...

Tabled paper: Front page of the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 7 September 2016, with the headline 'Crimewave is Your Fault: Minister says unlocked doors behind theft spike' [[1479](#)].

Forget about the criminals. It is not their fault. They are not doing anything wrong whatsoever! This government continues to be soft on criminals and the criminals know it. The citizens of Townsville do not want advice on how to lock up their houses and their cars; they want this police minister to lock up the criminals.