




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2016

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Crime

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (10.15 am): Two weeks ago the police minister announced something that was painfully obvious to all Queenslanders—that is, in the last 12 months this soft-on-crime Premier's approach to crime has led to a six per cent increase in crime. Car thefts have increased by 10 per cent, assaults have increased by 12 per cent and robberies have increased by four per cent.

Over the last two or three weeks the shadow Attorney-General and I have been visiting the state and everywhere we go law and order is the most important issue brought up. We attended a crime forum hosted by the member for Currumbin which involved local police, Neighbourhood Watch, chamber of commerce members and community group members. Without any prompting, the biggest issue they had was the fear of the return of the bikies. Families are fearful that they will not be able to eat in restaurants in their local streets—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is a bill currently before the House in relation to these matters.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not need assistance, members. I urge the member for Everton to make sure he does not canvass the issues currently before the House.

Mr MANDER: I will not do that. Local businesses are concerned about extortion by bikie thugs coming back again.

Then we went to Townsville. The fear in the community in Townsville is palpable. They are scared. They have people literally sleeping with their car keys under their pillows because they are concerned about the crime rates, but there was no problem in Townsville! Then we had the most innovative crime fighting strategy in Queensland's history introduced—a doorknocking campaign by 15 police recruits, reminding North Queenslanders that it is their fault that their houses are being broken into and that their cars are being stolen. Then, when they saw the negative community response to that, they decided to have a helicopter but not the police helicopter—an emergency services helicopter, without any recording gear, without any cameras. We literally have police hanging out of the helicopter with binoculars to see whether they can find any potential criminals. It is an absolute joke.

The most recent announcement was the 30 police for 30 days—a sugar hit, and after 30 days everything else will go back to normal. Policing is not the issue in North Queensland or in this state; the issue is the law. It is no coincidence that since this government and this soft-on-crime Premier changed the laws the crime rate has spiralled.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr MANDER: There is nothing more frustrating for police than to arrest a young offender on Friday night for stealing a car and then on Sunday night getting the same offender again for break and enter. Policing is not the issue; the law is the issue. They have changed the law. This is a soft-on-crime Premier. It is in her DNA.