




Speech By
Verity Barton

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Broadwater Electorate, Crime Forum

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (7.02 pm): I rise this evening to inform the House of a very successful local crime forum that I held last week with the shadow Attorney-General, the member for Mansfield, Ian Walker. I put on the record my thanks and appreciation to those who took the opportunity to come and share their experiences, their thoughts and their concerns. In particular, I thank Kay, who is a volunteer in policing at Runaway Bay Police Station; Garry, Jean and Colin, who represented the various neighbourhood watch groups in the Broadwater electorate; Ed, who came representing Crime Stoppers; Councillor Cameron Caldwell of division 3 of the Gold Coast City Council; and local police officers Senior Sergeant Murray Underwood, who is the officer in charge of Runaway Bay Police Station, and Inspector Owen Hartz.

It was fantastic for people to have an opportunity to really talk about what it is that concerns them. What we saw is that there were two big issues on the Gold Coast that were raised by my community at this forum. The first issue that was raised was the scourge of ice. This is something that many across Queensland are talking about. Many across Queensland are trying to work out what it is that we can do to stop this scourge in our community because we know that it devastates lives. The people of my electorate were very heartened to hear the shadow Attorney-General speak about the LNP's plan to tackle the scourge of ice so that we can make sure that we get it off the streets, so that we can make sure that we can do in a dealer and, importantly, so that we can make sure that we support those in our community who need our assistance to beat the scourge and beat the battle that is addiction to ice.

The other important issue that was raised by members of my community was the concern about organised crime on the Gold Coast. The message I heard loud and clear from my community is that they are very concerned about criminal motorcycle gangs on the Gold Coast and they are very concerned about any attempt to weaken the regime that we have in this state.

Mrs D'ATH: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. This issue goes directly to a bill that is currently before the House.

Mr SPEAKER: I think it does, member for Broadwater. Can you speak on something else, please.

Miss BARTON: Mr Speaker, I take note of the Attorney-General's point of order. Without going into the content of the bill, I think it is very appropriate in this House that I take this opportunity, as all members do, to put on the record the concerns of my community. I have no doubt that I will continue to do so on a range of issues.

Lastly, I would also like to very much thank The Deli at Paradise Point for hosting us. They put on a fantastic spread. The coffee was fantastic. The sandwiches were fantastic. The cakes were fantastic. It was a pleasure to be able to give the leftovers to Senior Sergeant Murray Underwood to take back to our hardworking men and women in blue at the Runaway Bay Police Station.