




Speech By
Hon. Bill Byrne

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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MOTION: CRIME

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.11 pm): Obviously the government opposes the motion which has been put forward this evening. It represents another Homer Simpson moment from the member for Burdekin. As Homer Simpson says, 'Why do things that I love always burn?' What we have seen so far from the debate tonight probably validates that.

The fact that the opposition prepared this motion and is prepared to repeat yesterday's nonsense is reminiscent of the Charge of the Light Brigade going into the guns. Let me deal with the nonsense which was presented yesterday and reinforced by this motion. Lock it or Lose it is a Queensland Police Service initiative, and it is a good one and it is a longstanding one. Yesterday's exhibition from those opposite, in an attempt—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, one moment. Minister for Industrial Relations, you are warned under standing order 253A for your unnecessary interjections. I know there is provocation on both sides.

Mr BYRNE: I am sorry for provoking them; I just want to put some facts on the table. Yesterday's exhibition from the opposition, in an attempt to connect a longstanding QPS antitheft doorknocking initiative called Lock it or Lose it to bashings—which is what those questions yesterday represent—is perhaps one of the lowest and most disgraceful things I have seen in this House, and I have seen a lot under the last administration. They have learned nothing and the points they have brought forward are ridiculous in the extreme. Let us talk about this program, which has been running for a while. What have other people said? Let us look back to March 2014. The then member for Cairns, Gavin King, is quoted as saying—

Offenders are literally walking around for hours, walking past cars, seeing what's on the front seat and seeing what cars are unlocked.

We can have a significant reduction in this type of opportunistic crime, if people were to think about security before they leave their cars.

He said that the police need to be freed up and he further stated—

... we need them out on the streets, we need them tackling the types of crime ...

In 2014 Gavin King was supporting Lock it or Lose it initiatives in Cairns. There was the community police doorknock initiative. In 2013 the Townsville myPolice blog warned motorists to 'lock it or you'll cop a fine'. It is a long-running program. *Noosa Today* referred to the Lock it or Lose it program. The *Morning Bulletin* referred to the Lock it or Lose it program. The Townsville myPolice blog referred to the program in April 2014 and April 2013. This program was being run under those opposite. They supported this in government. We stand up—

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I remind the member for Whitsunday that he has already been warned under standing order 253A. Member for Nanango, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you have been repetitive in your disruptive interjections. You are now warned as well under standing order 253A.

Mr BYRNE: That is what was said. We have members opposite or their predecessors who backed this police initiative, and that is exactly what we did in Townsville. We backed a police initiative that has been running successfully up in Townsville and is well regarded. The community feedback has been extremely positive. They like seeing the police. They like the advice given and, by the way, they give very good advice and information to the Police Service when they are doing it. It is a very proactive and very productive program which is led by the police. My role as minister is to back them.

The commentary coming from those opposite attacks this program. What did I actually say? I said that the problem can be greatly reduced if people take responsibility for their own residences and their cars. It is an important aspect of an individual's responsibility to their community. Everybody in the community has a responsibility, and we are trying to encourage members of the community to help us reduce problems. Those comments were translated into what has been bandied around by those opposite: a complete and utter nonsense. The fact that the fourth estate chose to run that piece is of no consequence to me. I know what I said. I have backed exactly what the Queensland Police Service have been doing, and I will continue to back the Police Service and continue to back the Lock it or Lose it campaign.

If you took the opposition's point of view, I took my life savings, put them under my bed at home and left the doors wide open. If someone comes and knocks it all off, it is the government's fault. It is the government's fault that I have left my life savings under the pillow and left my house open. It is the government's fault that I am not taking responsibility for my possessions at some level. That is the level of contribution we got from those opposite. It is about time they said something sensible in this debate.