




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2016

MOTION: LAW AND ORDER

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (6.28 pm): Wasn't that a display from the three members on the other side who are beating their chests and so proud of themselves for their personal insults and derogatory comments on what is supposed to be such an important issue for that side!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members, I want to hear the contribution from the Attorney-General. Member for Everton, if you persist with your discussion across the chamber, you will be warned.

Mrs D'ATH: Law and order and community safety is an important issue but what we have heard today is just a stunt. It was offensive. We have year 10 students in the gallery listening to the comments from over there and the giggling amongst themselves because they were making cute little remarks, derogatory comments and personal insults to people on this side all about law and order.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mrs D'ATH: We know when the LNP drags out the whole tough on crime, law and order subject—and it is obvious—that there is always a reason and I have to say it is often because things are not going well for them. It is often because they are desperate for a distraction. Maybe it has something to do with the fact that a few weeks ago the Leader of the Opposition, in trying very hard to win the leadership, went out there and said, 'Asset sales? That is dead. That is gone. Asset sales are dead.' However, only yesterday the Leader of the Opposition was out there in front of the media saying, 'We'll get back to you on asset sales. We'll let you know in the future what our position is.'

Mr WALKER: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! What is your point of order, member for Mansfield?

Mr WALKER: Relevance. The Attorney-General is casting aspersions over here and yet she is whizzing off everywhere off the topic. She should keep to the topic of the motion under consideration.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mrs D'ATH: I am drawing to the attention of the House that this motion is a stunt. It is about a distraction. They are not genuine about this issue. Let us have a look at the wording of this motion, that 'this House notes the rising level of concern'. From whom? From the opposition, because they are concerned that their leader keeps digging them a hole and they do not know how to get out of it? Where is the rising level of concern? There is no basis for it.

They come in here with a motion about rising levels of concern, unaddressed levels of crime in the community and a failure to act to restore law and order without any basis to it whatsoever. This is what they do. They go out there and they prey on the community's fears. They prey on people's fears. It is what they do. They do it well. We have seen it before. We saw it in the lead-up to the 2012 election. We saw that when they came into government they said, 'We're going to be tough on crime.' They certainly were, and they went far beyond what any Queenslander thought they would do. Did the Queenslanders thank them for that? No, they did not. They said, 'These are not the laws we want. This is not the government we want.'

As the police minister has said this evening, we have increasing growth in our prison populations thanks to the legacy of those on the other side. There was no strategy to reduce crime.

Mr Bennett interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Burdekin, you are warned under standing order 253A. I cannot hear the contribution from the Attorney-General. If you want to participate—sorry, not Burdekin, member for Burnett. If you wanted to participate, you had an opportunity to participate.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, I do not need your assistance, member for Whitsunday. I could name a few others, but I will not.

Mrs D'ATH: We heard the member for Mansfield talking about proper consideration in relation to organised crime, and that is the height of hypocrisy. That was the government that rammed through legislation. They put it together in a matter of days, they rammed it through this parliament and they criticised a process that took months and was made up of representatives from the Police Service, the Police Union, the Law Society and the Public Interest Monitor. We had broad representation in terms of the people who worked through that legislation in detail.

They talk about sentencing, yet they came in here last night criticising the establishment of the Sentencing Advisory Council because apparently they know better. They criticised the CCC, but they are the ones who took powers away from the CCC and its independence. They are the ones who sought to hide political donations by increasing the threshold. That is the sort of integrity they have when it comes to crime and accountability and integrity. They quote rubbery figures. That is why we need to establish an independent crime statistical body, because they like to cherrypick figures to make out as if something is happening when it is not.

They are running down areas like Townsville when right now we should be talking up Townsville. We should be talking about Townsville being a great place to live and work and talking about opportunities, not saying that it is the worst place in Queensland. When it comes to crime, the attacks from that side in relation to Townsville and other parts of this state are irresponsible. They never base any of their arguments on facts. If they wanted to talk about crime, let us talk about alcohol fuelled violence. Did they want to do something about that? Did they actually want to tackle alcohol fuelled violence when the time came? No. They have no credibility on this issue.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Southport, the issue of asset sales has nothing to do with this debate. You are warned under standing order 253A for your interjections.

(Time expired)