




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Townsville, Crime

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (9.47 pm): The ineffective policies of the Palaszczuk government in relation to crime, and in particular youth crime, are hurting communities in Townsville and North Queensland. The Labor MPs for Townsville, Mundingburra and Thuringowa have all ignored their constituents and voted in favour of overturning the strong juvenile justice reforms of the previous LNP government.

Labor has offered us the infamous ‘strike force’ and traded the LNP’s boot camps for the comically named ‘culturally appropriate adventure based learning programs’. The people of North Queensland know these policies are a joke and they have had enough. They are not swallowing the bulldust that they are getting from Townsville’s three Labor MPs. A fed up resident in Burdell, in the Hinchinbrook electorate, Wendy Ambrose, started an online petition and, as of today, it has attracted more than 16,500 signatures. I will now read the petition preamble into the record. These are not my words but those of the people of Townsville and North Queensland. The preamble reads—

The people of Townsville and other North Queensland communities have had enough of being held hostage in our own homes by gangs of juvenile offenders that have no respect for the law or property of law abiding citizens. Repeat juvenile offenders are fronting court and being let back out on our streets by inadequate laws that allow them to repeatedly terrorise the community. The current Labour Government continues to take a soft approach on juvenile crime and ignore the rights of the citizens who live in these communities. Their latest announcement of supervised bail houses to be established in 7 communities across the state is another example of their arrogance and how out of touch they are with the people they were elected to represent. There was no community consultation and Ms D’Ath has wrongly assumed that we would all be happy and not feel threatened by the establishment of this facility in our town.

Our city currently has stolen cars, (one stolen at knife point) terrorising our streets, ramming other road users and running other vehicles off the road and police are powerless to stop the madness because the current laws don’t allow them to use force to do so. As law abiding citizens we should be able to defend our family and our property without fear of prosecution.

We want to feel safe on our streets and in our own homes. It is clear that the soft approach isn’t working and that harsher penalties are needed. This government must start protecting the rights of the community as a whole and stop protecting and enabling juvenile criminals to repeatedly reoffend. We demand that tougher juvenile crime laws are enacted and that our police are given more powers to apprehend them.

Those are the words in the preamble signed by 16½ thousand people in Townsville and across North Queensland, and I table that nonconforming petition.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding tougher laws for juvenile offenders [\[2006\]](#).

In contrast, the LNP has a strong youth justice policy. The LNP will bring back those tough and effective measures that were overturned by the Palaszczuk government, and we will implement further initiatives due to the terrible mess that Labor has made in Townsville and North Queensland because the members for Townsville, Mundingburra and Thuringowa have not listened to their constituents.