




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 24 October 2017

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Kennedy, Mr D

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (11.05 am): Yesterday I was advised by Queensland Corrective Services that Damien Kennedy, a convicted adult sex offender and person supervised under the Dangerous Prisoners Sexual Offenders Act 2003, had removed his GPS electronic device and his whereabouts remain unknown.

Mr Bleijie: He's probably in the bail house in the community somewhere.

Mr RYAN: This is a serious matter.

Mr Bleijie: Exactly.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, the minister is making a ministerial statement. I do not find his comments provocative.

Mr RYAN: Mr Kennedy had been supervised in the community since his release from custody in 2016. In respect of this matter, I am advised that the Queensland Police Service was immediately notified and are currently searching for Mr Kennedy. Any member of the public who has any information relating to Damien Kennedy's whereabouts is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800333000.

It was a Labor government that had the foresight to introduce the dangerous prisoner sex offender legislation to ensure our community is kept safe.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you are warned under standing order 253A. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action. You know the reason I have made that warning.

Mr RYAN: This legislation is the toughest and most effective post-conviction mechanism for dealing with and monitoring sex offenders in Australia. Under this legislation it is a criminal offence for an offender to remove a GPS tracking device while they are subject to a supervision order. In fact, as prescribed in section 43AA of the act, any offender convicted of this offence will face the full consequences of the law and serve at least one year back behind bars—no ifs, no buts.

Breaking or cutting the GPS tracking device straps generates an immediate critical alert to the Queensland Corrective Services central monitoring station. The critical alerts are then immediately escalated to the Queensland Police Service for response in conjunction with Queensland Corrective Services. Let me be clear: Queensland Corrective Services takes its role seriously in protecting the community by supervising these offenders who have done their time but must continue to be supervised upon release to safeguard community safety. GPS monitoring is just one of a number of tools that Queensland Corrective Services employs to supervise and monitor the whereabouts of these offenders.

This is on top of intensive case management, consistent and robust drug and alcohol testing and unannounced home visits, employment checks and collateral checks with health professionals, among other things.

The Palaszczuk government makes no apologies for taking a hard line on sex offenders after their release from jail. Again, I encourage any member of the public with information about Damien Kennedy's whereabouts to contact Crime Stoppers as soon as possible.