




Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2017

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Northern Gold Coast

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.54 pm): I proudly represent the people of the northern Gold Coast. The northern Gold Coast is largely canelands. Jacobs Well, a beautiful piece of country, is in the middle of the canelands. I take the point from the member for Gregory that it seems that agriculture is being left out. In recent times white spot disease has wiped out the prawn industry. There have been ongoing issues with sugar mill breakdowns forcing us to take cane to Condong in Northern New South Wales. We have seen rising crime rates occurring in the northern Gold Coast as a result of lack of police. We have 40 fewer police on the Gold Coast now than we had a year ago. We need another 50 more police in the northern Gold Coast alone. That is not for the rest of the Gold Coast; that is for the northern Gold Coast.

Furthermore, it is taking weeks and weeks to take out the blight of fire ants in South-East Queensland that are fast moving towards the Gold Coast. To top it off, we now have a bail house. There are no police, no bus services and these people are not in detention; they are on bail, free to come and go. As we saw today, the Premier is in denial about policing.

We have no funding for exits 41, 45 and 49. This government has completely left out the northern Gold Coast in so many different ways, including the areas around the canelands, except for in one instance—and that is to compound matters by delivering a bail house. This week, a question without notice was asked about fire ants. It stated—

I ask why, when identification is a simple process, are fire ant nests not being treated at the time of inspection? When will this government bring some common sense to managing this program and stop the nonsense that risks even further spread of this exotic and damaging pest?

Instead of giving us an answer to the question, the part-time minister gave us an absolute rant and rave.

In relation to youth bail houses, the justice minister said that it would be based on evidence and consultation with key stakeholders. Key stakeholders wrote to the Attorney-General weeks and weeks ago. The Attorney-General was going to say something further but we will never know what it was because she is not responding to key stakeholders, the people of the Jacobs Well Environmental Education Centre Advisory Council, the Jacobs Well Progress Association or, dare I say, me. Please, Minister, talk to the people of the northern Gold Coast and tell us what is going on.