




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2017

MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Townsville, Crime

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (12.58 pm): What a great coincidence that I would speak straight after the member for Thuringowa, who proudly boasts about the record of this government in fighting crime in Townsville. I say to him that no-one in town believes him. In fact, I will read a letter to the editor about the member for Thuringowa. Mr David Thoumine said—

There is no point in the police arresting these criminals if the government allows them to go free shortly after being arrested.

I would suggest your government's Operation Oscar Merchant is nothing more than spin—and poor spin at that.

...

... Operation Oscar Merchant—it may as well be *The Merchant of Venice*.

...

So please, Mr Harper, do not think you and your other two colleagues are doing a great job by representing the people of Townsville, because you are not.

You can continue to convince yourself that you are making a difference to the crime rate in Townsville but you are not, because the facts speak for themselves. In Townsville last year robberies increased by 73.4 per cent, break-ins increased by 47.6 per cent and car theft increased by 65.7 per cent. You are 2½ times more likely to be bashed, burgled or have your car stolen in Townsville than you are in Brisbane and the residents of Townsville have had a gutful. Not only is it costing them money directly through break-ins and car thefts but it is now affecting their insurance premiums. The RACQ reports that last year insurance claims in Townsville soared by 57 per cent compared to only 19.5 per cent for the rest of Queensland. There was a 180 per cent increase in claims for theft of audio and other car parts compared to eight per cent across Queensland, and of course an increase in claims equates to increased insurance premiums.

What has this Labor government said? We have heard the third Labor minister in two years say, 'Enough is enough.' We have had the member for Thuringowa say, 'I say no to crime.' We have had the member for Mundingburra say, 'We are implementing tough measures.' The member for Townsville says that crime is the No. 1 priority issue for him in Townsville. Despite all this rhetoric and talk from the members in the Townsville area, *Hansard* records they have done exactly the opposite: they voted to soften the tough bail laws introduced by the LNP in 2014; they voted to scrap the naming and shaming laws; they voted to remove the stronger sentencing options for the courts which were introduced by the LNP; and they supported Labor's decision to get rid of boot camps. They rejected the ideas that are coming from the community. They have rejected outright the idea of youth curfews and reform of the police pursuit policy. When those opposite talk about funding for Project Booyah, that service was already operating in nine different areas and that funding did not extend one service, yet those opposite spin it to make out that they have increased services. They have done nothing like that whatsoever.

The members for Townsville, Thuringowa and Mundingburra speak tough when they are up in Townsville, but when they come down here they are as limp as wet lettuce leaves. They roll over straightaway because they will not listen to the people in their communities.

I have not even had a chance to talk about youth detention centres and the uprisings that are taking place up there. It has been reported that a couple of the young criminals responsible for some of the riots in the youth detention centre actually stole a car to go to the court hearing; do you believe it? That is how bad the situation is up there. Only the LNP has a comprehensive plan to make the streets of Townsville safe again, and I look forward to having a couple of great representatives in North Queensland. Casie Scott in Townsville and Matt Derlagen in Thuringowa are people who will deliver results and keep the streets of Townsville safe.