



Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2017

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Crime



Mr MANDER (Everton—LNP) (6.00 pm): I move—

That this House condemns the Palaszczuk government for being soft on crime and putting the safety of Queensland families at risk.

Labor's softly, softly approach on crime in Queensland is starting to wear the Queensland public down. The evidence is there for all to see. Drug and violent crime is increasing across the state, youth crime in North Queensland is out of control, our jails are bursting at the seams, we have youth detention centres that are described as war zones and of course the bikies are back. Let me provide a bit more detail on some of those areas.

Our youth detention centres lurch from one crisis to the next, with riots occurring on a regular basis and the staff at these centres having no confidence whatsoever—nor do they feel protected. We have a government that, rather than punishing habitual youth offenders, seeks to understand them—seeks to understand these poor souls. We have an Attorney-General who supported the delay in calling police to quell a recent riot because they were concerned about the negative impact it would have on the youth perpetrators. The result was that a youth detention officer was seriously injured and he could lose his sight. Imagine how much worse it is going to be when 17-year-olds come back into youth detention centres. This is a government that puts the rights of offenders ahead of the rights of victims of crime.

Let me talk about police morale. Who can forget the front page of the *Courier-Mail* on Friday, 12 May, which stated 'Crims think we're a joke'? I table that document.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 12 May 2017, titled 'Crims Think We're A Joke' [\[781\]](#).

The article stated—

A senior police officer says crime is "out of control" and has apologised to Queenslanders for letting them down.

Senior Sergeant Phil Notaro claims morale in the Queensland Police Service is at its lowest since the Fitzgerald Inquiry and called for an inquiry into its mismanagement.

"The criminals are laughing ... all the way to the next crime spree."

The criminals are laughing at us because they know that the laws are being weakened and that the police are powerless to stop them. I hear this story right across the state. The police on the front line have had a gutful. Morale is at an all-time low because they feel so unsupported.

As we mentioned last week, the bikies are back. We are seeing constant media reports stating that the bikies are back in business because Labor watered down the organised crime laws. Labor have watered down the strong bokie laws that were put in place by the LNP in 2013 to prevent and detect organised crime. These laws were working. One of those measures was our tough antiassociation law.

If you were part of a declared organised crime gang, you could not associate with more than one other. This broke the back of the bikies. What has the government put in its place? Labor has introduced anticonsorting laws.

Rather than saying how their government has stopped bikie gangs coming together, the police minister recently announced, quite proudly, that they have issued 107 consorting warnings since March 2017. I can imagine how spooked the bikies are that they have been warned not to come back together again. What do these warnings mean? What do these warnings look like? How many warnings do they get? How do the police administer warnings? When they come to somebody who is part of an organised crime gang, do they ask them, 'Have you been warned before? How many warnings have you received?' Can members imagine the red tape and bureaucracy that is associated with this new law? It is frustrating our police and it is not doing anything to stop the bikies come together. If I can say anything about the success of the LNP's antibikie laws, I cannot say it better than the Premier and the current police minister, who have both said that the official number of patched bikies in Queensland has fallen from 1,158 in late 2013 to 696 today—

Mr Ryan: Under us.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I would urge the cheer squad to step outside if they want to conduct themselves like that.

Mr MANDER: When were the tough antibikie laws introduced by the LNP? It was on 15 October 2013.