




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 24 October 2017

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Community Safety

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.42 pm): Community safety is at risk under this Labor government because they continually put the rights of criminals ahead of the community safety of Queensland families. Queenslanders know that the Palaszczuk Labor government is soft on crime. If any further proof of that were needed, the release of the annual police crime statistics occurred about 10 days ago. What a charade we saw when these figures were released. They were snuck out there during a Friday afternoon press conference in the hope that they would be buried in other news, but of course the government cannot hide bad news from Queenslanders.

Let's look at some of the facts detailed in the crime statistics over the last 12 months. Reported crime across Queensland overall is up nine per cent, robbery is up 26 per cent, armed robbery is up 24 per cent, unlawful use of a motor vehicle such as car theft and hooning offences is up 19 per cent, fraud is up 15 per cent, unlawful entry or break-ins are up 12 per cent, assault is up 11 per cent, overall property crime is up nine per cent, overall offences against the person are up nine per cent and breaches of domestic violence orders are up nine per cent. These figures are appalling, and these figures are coming from the police themselves.

Is it any wonder that crime has increased at such a rate when we look at the personnel statistics in all of the police districts across the state? Astonishingly, last year we learnt only three additional police officers were put on across Queensland between 2015-16 and 2016-17 under this Labor government. Compare that to the 1,100 extra police that we put on in the previous government. It is absolutely astonishing. Those numbers have gone backwards throughout the state. There are 55 fewer local police in the North Brisbane district, 48 fewer in South Brisbane, 40 fewer officers on the Gold Coast, in the Wide Bay-Burnett district there are 15 fewer, in Logan and Moreton districts there are 13 fewer and Ipswich has eight fewer. I table those figures for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Personnel: Summary Table' [[2095](#)].

If honourable members did not see them for themselves, they would not believe that it was true. These figures are absolutely disgraceful. Is it any wonder crime statistics have gone through the roof? These crime statistics are not the result of our hardworking police; they are doing everything that they can to make sure that we keep crime under control. When there is a government that does not support them in terms of resources and a government that does not have a legal framework that is effective, is it any wonder we see that these crime statistics have gone through the roof? What did we see after these statistics were revealed? The police minister went to Townsville and actually claimed that things were improving, that they have never had it better than in recent months. This is despite the fact that the three local Townsville MPs were completely missing in action in the midst of another youth crime spree in Townsville.

The police minister has zero credibility when it comes to standing up for victims of crime and community safety. He narrowly survived a vote of no confidence over his disgraceful treatment of Gary and Leanne Pullen, which is still being investigated by the Crime and Corruption Commission. Then there was the promise that was made that there would be 20 extra police in Townsville in the RAP squad. If honourable members read every bit of correspondence that was communicated to the public about this, they would know that it left the impression that there would be 20 extra police. However, now we hear that that is not the case, that these are actually going to be redeployed police officers. The *Townsville Bulletin* put it beautifully. An article stated—

They were, in classic Orwellian doublespeak, “redeployed” from other areas.

In other words, they were no extra resources and the Government has been caught out in a lie.

These are the words of the *Townsville Bulletin*. These are the words and the thoughts of the people of Townsville. This minister said in an August press conference that he is doing a good job. He is doing a good job despite youth crime being out of control in Townsville, despite the bikies coming back to the Gold Coast, despite crime rates going through the roof, despite our jails being chronically overcrowded and despite the increased assaults on hardworking prison officers. Only the LNP will put community safety first and give our hardworking police and resources—

(Time expired)