




Speech By
Aaron Harper

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

Record of Proceedings, 20 September 2018

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Townsville, Crime

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.04 pm): I have said in this House before that in relation to the broad and challenging issue of crime that I can assure my constituents that I will not give up finding solutions and fighting for them to help make our community a safer place to raise families. Expanding police officer numbers last year by 20 officers in the rapid action patrol hub located in Thuringowa can be attributed to my work and I intend to deliver more resources in our area. Having more police patrolling our streets is an entirely good thing. I commend all our fine officers in the QPS, particularly those in the Thuringowa area.

The issue of youth crime in North Queensland has been one that has affected and challenged our communities. It has been well ventilated that there is no one single solution. Youth crime is a complex issue and I do not have the time in this particular speech to talk about the causes, such as drugs, alcohol, chomping or domestic violence. That will have to wait for another time. This broad issue requires a suite of programs and supports to make real change. Whilst we must hold people to account for their actions through things such as detention, we must also support local solutions to make the community a safer place.

Programs and initiatives that the Labor government has invested in are working. I have spoken previously about such programs, including the Townsville Strong Communities program, the Yinda cultural mentoring program, the Clontarf Foundation, the Pathways College and the list goes on. One thing I do know is that the increased visibility of police in our community works. This is fundamental to our safety. Our local police need the right facilities. I table a nonconforming petition.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding a new police facility in the Upper Ross [\[1417\]](#).

We ran out of forms and members of the community started writing on the back of it.

The petition calls for a new police facility in the Upper Ross area covering three suburbs and 25,000 residents. I will provide a copy to the police minister. I thank each and every one of those 319 local residents who have supported my petition in recent weeks. Together we will get this done and help make our communities safer. I say to the minister, respectfully, it is time to stomp up and deliver. I have worked very closely with the community and our local police in the Upper Ross in conducting a successful trial over the last 24 months.

I give a shout out to the Upper Ross Community Voice. We get regular briefs from the police. They know that combining the old 1991 demountable police beat in Yvette Street and the old single-officer Rasmussen beat to a new facility located geographically between the two will provide a dozen officers and thereby a better response to demand for services as it increases in the area. Hopefully we will see a decreasing trend for those calls. I am determined to deliver for my electorate. I thank the police minister for listening to the residents of Thuringowa. Let us get this done.