




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 31 October 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Sunshine Coast, Crime

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (7.23 pm): The first priority and duty of any government in Queensland should be the safety of its citizens. Lately we have had big issues in my electorate. When I looked at recent stories in the *Sunshine Coast Daily* I became concerned. I saw headlines such as 'Man, 35, arrested over string of Coast break-ins', 'Man, 21, charged with armed robbery of Coast 7-Eleven', 'Hunt on as tomahawk robbers strike twice in 24 hours', 'Coast armed robbers', 'Chemist armed robbery accused hopes for bail', '18yo held up by knife-wielding man' and—more concerning in the last couple of weeks—'Shooting sparks fears bikies are back'. I table the articles.

Tabled paper: Articles from the *Sunshine Coast Daily*, various dates, relating to crime on the Sunshine Coast [\[1784\]](#).

I never thought I would be standing in the Queensland parliament saying that I have a concern about bikie gangs in the electorate of Kawana. That matter is before the court, but I can say that it is drug related and involves members of the Rebels bikie gang. Years ago I, as part of the LNP team, did everything in my power to get criminal gangs out of the state of Queensland. It is no coincidence that since Labor came to power in 2015 crime is up but the budget is down. We have seen hold-ups of the Liquorland at Aroona, Zarraffa's at Caloundra and 7-Eleven at Meridan Plains. Numerous homes on Kawana Island have been broken into. There was a robbery at Caloundra Midnight Pharmacy and a bikie shooting.

The Labor Party cut funding to Neighbourhood Watch groups across Queensland in the midst of a crime spree. This morning I asked the police minister about crime on the Sunshine Coast. Assaults are up by 19.2 per cent. Car thefts are up by over 30 per cent. As I said, we have now seen a bikie shooting. The response of the Minister for Police to the question this morning was—

Mr Speaker, I seek your ruling as to whether the question is in order.

The minister cannot even talk about the crime rates because he knows that the statistics are bad. Under the watch of this police minister crime is increasing, and the government has no plan to do anything about it.

As I said, the duty of the government of the state of Queensland should be the protection and safety of its citizens. Labor is failing. You cannot look at the statistics released by the Labor Party in any other way. Since 2015, crime on the Sunshine Coast has increased. It is no coincidence. Labor is soft on crime. Labor has always been soft on crime. The people it impacts are the residents.

(Time expired)