




Speech By
Aaron Harper

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

Record of Proceedings, 24 October 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Townsville, Community Safety; Thompson, Mr P

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (6.21 pm): I am a bit angry and upset because I was going to speak on good things happening in Thuringowa. However, thanks to the extremely poor actions of the federal member for Herbert, Phillip Thompson MP, I now find my energy having to be used to respond to the so-called member's very poor lack of judgement, thought and actions. Yesterday I spoke in this place of the dangerous actions of criminals that are placing our community at extreme risk where they are driving stolen cars through Townsville. I thank the Premier and particularly the police minister for their swift response in launching Operation Romeo Seville, which has already netted results with youth being apprehended and placed before the courts and one today being refused bail. However, Phillip Thompson MP, who purports to put people before politics—using my line—rose in the House of Representatives yesterday, 23 October, and attacked not only our government but me, and I table that speech.

Tabled paper: House of Representatives proof statements by members, dated 23 October 2019, speech by the member for Herbert, Mr Phillip Thompson MP, regarding law enforcement [1954](#).

The gloves are off. In that speech, he referred to me as the member for Thuringowa and said that I had said that in Townsville crime was not a problem. I have never made that statement and I have never said those words. It is completely untrue and I believe he has deliberately misled the House. I shall write to the Speaker of the House of Representatives because that statement is designed to harm my reputation as the member for Thuringowa. I call on the federal MP to publicly apologise to me—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr HARPER: You clearly do not know the rules. I will take the interjection because the Clerk has advised me of the rules. Thank you very much, member for Kawana. I have got this.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Member for Kawana, you will cease your interjections.

Mr HARPER: Perhaps the federal member for Herbert can explain to the people of Townsville why the federal government ceased funding the very successful second stage of the Project Booyah program called Framing the Future. The Queensland government, thanks to the police minister, has picked up the tab because the federal government walked away from their responsibilities and they let down the people of Townsville and that very successful program.

The member should hang his head in shame for his disgraceful actions in the House of Representatives yesterday. If he wants to try to help solve the problem, he should contribute, but standing there and attacking a state member is completely wrong and I call on him to publicly apologise. We will continue to stand up for the people of Townsville. We will continue to deliver police resources and additional police for Townsville. We will continue to stand up for the people of Townsville.