



Speech By  
**Brent Mickelberg**


**MEMBER FOR BUDERIM**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 March 2019

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Buderim Police Beat**

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.42 pm): Crime is a scourge that erodes the very fabric of our society. Bit by bit, crime erodes the trust and the confidence of our communities. In its many forms, crime erodes the feeling of safety that our children and the elderly have a right to feel in their homes.

Today I will outline the important role that the Buderim Police Beat has in making sure our locals feel safe and I will voice the concerns of my community who are worried that we may lose our single local police officer. While my community does not have a crime epidemic like Townsville or parts of the Gold Coast, like everywhere Buderim also has instances where people disregard the law.

**Mr Harper** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** A bit like this clown from Thuringowa.

**Mr HARPER:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I take personal offence at that and ask him to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Member for Buderim, the member has taken personal offence and that language was unparliamentary. On both accounts I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I withdraw. Just this week a Range Rover stolen from a house in my electorate was involved in a high speed police pursuit travelling at 130 kilometres an hour in local suburban streets. Youth crime is on the rise and is of great concern to locals and visitors alike. In 2017 alone more than 170 drug offences were committed in Buderim. That is the fourth highest number of any suburb on the Sunshine Coast. In January we saw a disturbing home invasion where a gun was shoved in a Buderim man's face and was injured as the offenders forced their way into his home.

It is only because of the work of our local police that these kinds of threats are not more common. Our local police beat is a vital service which has served our community for many years. In recent times our local officer has been Senior Constable Aaron Caldwell. Aaron is a well-known and respected member of the Buderim community. He is often seen patrolling the CBD or working to make school drop-offs and pick-ups safer. He has embedded a culture of trust by working with the community and he works proactively to identify and assist in solving local problems. Aaron has been integral in promoting personal safety and reducing the fear of crime, particularly among the youngest and oldest members of our community.

That is why I am so concerned with reports that we may lose Senior Constable Caldwell and the Buderim Police Beat. The benefits of a community based police presence for my community cannot be overstated. Buderim residents feel safer with the personal interaction and proactive engagement Senior Constable Caldwell and our local police beat bring.

On behalf of the Buderim community, I would like to thank Senior Constable Caldwell and his colleagues for their tireless work. I call on the government to reassure the people of Buderim that they will continue to have the Buderim Police Beat make our community safer for many years to come.