



Speech By  
**Mark Boothman**


**MEMBER FOR THEODORE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Theodore Electorate, Law and Order

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.05 pm): I rise tonight to thank our local police officers for the wonderful work they do on the northern Gold Coast. My community is forever grateful for the work they do in keeping us safe. We know they work long hours responding to calls for service and dealing with those who do not care about the rights and liberties of others, yet they continue to turn up to work in the knowledge that they are being placed in harm's way.

Earlier this year one of my local officers was seriously assaulted in the line of duty. The absolute contempt some in our community have for our police and other emergency services is horrid. Crime is a sad reality of our modern society, but should it be? We read in our local newspaper, the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, that even our local shopping centres are becoming crime hotspots with theft, fraud, assaults, handling stolen goods, drug offences, traffic related offences, good order offences and other property offences. Furthermore, earlier this year I spoke to residents about assaults at our train stations and heard their frustration. I also heard from one elderly resident whose home was broken into multiple times. That resident was so scared to live in her own home that she was forced to sell it. Her precious jewellery, handed down from her mother, was stolen along with the precious memories that can never be replaced.

These residents do not blame the police. They know they are doing the best job they can with limited resources. Yes, we certainly do need more police on the northern Gold Coast and at Coomera—a lot more—we have been begging for it. However, the underlying issue remains: we need stronger deterrence—tougher sentencing that meets community expectations. I am sure everybody in this chamber would agree that we do need a degree of rehabilitation, but the community has a right to feel safe and see these individuals punished in line with community expectations, therefore, limiting the chance of those individuals reoffending and potentially destroying another person's life.

I have always supported the tough stance the LNP has had on crime, tougher sentencing and stronger legislation. As one of my constituents, a social worker, once said to me at one of my community roadsides, 'There are some in our society who can't be rehabilitated and will always be a threat and prey on the vulnerable.' Therefore, our local communities are demanding tougher action. It is our responsibility as members of parliament to actually meet those expectations and bring in measures of punishment that are in line with community expectations.