



Speech By  
**Michael Hart**


**MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 October 2019

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Gold Coast, Crime**

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (7.18 pm): Crime is out of control under this Palaszczuk government. We saw this play out yesterday in Townsville and, sadly, in my electorate of Burleigh it played out over the weekend. On Friday night I was out at an event. I came home at about eight o'clock and sat on the lounge with my wife to watch the news and catch up with daily events. Just after nine o'clock my wife muted our television and said, 'Did you hear that? That was gunshots.' A few minutes later we started to hear sirens.

Unfortunately, that noise that we heard was the ending of somebody's life within close range of my house. Two men lost their lives that night—two men whom we now find were members of the Comanchero bikie group. This government needs to take responsibility for changes that it made which softened the law around bikies. When the LNP put in place those laws—the VLAD laws—we drove the bikies out of this state, yet now they are back with a vengeance. In 2016 the Palaszczuk government introduced its soft organised crime laws. There are 28 declared bikie gangs in Queensland and we are finding that these consorting laws just do not work. Villains gang member Harley Barbaro successfully challenged Labor's consorting notice legislation in the Southport Magistrates Court in March of this year. Not one consorting notice has been issued ever since. This means that bikies can consort whenever they like and, apparently over the weekend on Friday night, they were consorting in my electorate and I do not want them there.

Under this government, the spending on our police force is down and crime is up. In fact, assaults on the Gold Coast are up 117 per cent, shop stealing is up 87 per cent, robbery has increased by 68 per cent, unlawful use of a motor vehicle is up 52 per cent and on the weekend murder was up by at least two people, and my understanding is that the police are now looking for a third person who may have been involved in that and may have been wounded as well. It is only the LNP that will be tough on crime. The Labor Party is completely soft on crime and the people of Queensland deserve better. They deserve an LNP government.