




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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ADJOURNMENT

Chatsworth Electorate, Anti-Theft Initiative

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (6.22 pm): I rise to commend a wonderful community initiative that was held recently in my electorate of Chatsworth. This event was a great collaboration between the Carina Police Station, Carina Neighbourhood Watch and Westfield Carindale, which joined together to offer residents an opportunity to fit anti-theft screws to their numberplates free of charge.

Just a few weeks ago, I walked across the road from my electorate office to my electorate's iconic local shopping centre, Westfield Carindale, to see for myself this great initiative. I showed up to find cars lined up as far as the eye could see. In fact, I was so delighted to see so many community members who made it a priority to protect themselves from potential theft. Within about two hours, roughly 100 drivers came through the carpark to get their anti-theft screws fitted to their numberplates.

I want to thank all the fantastic Queensland Police Service officers and volunteers who were tirelessly fitting these screws to car after car. I tried my own luck at changing some of the screws, but I could not keep up with the experts. These police officers and volunteers were all over it.

While residents were waiting for their plates to get fitted, the police officers took a moment to educate the community on road safety and preventing crime. During the event, I was shown a pretty cool virtual reality experience that can be used with just a smart phone. This experience shows drivers the impact that speed has on our vision. It is impressive to see how technology can assist us to deliver the message of the importance of staying safe on the road.

This event highlights the importance of working together to reduce and deflect crime. After reports of motor vehicle licence plate thefts occurring within the boundaries of the Carina Police Station division earlier this year, the police were quick to create a proactive approach to prevent this offence from flourishing further. This is proof that events such as these can create a strong voice that stands up to criminals. I am proud of the residents of the Chatsworth electorate for getting on board with this proactive approach.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who made the event possible. Specifically, I would like to thank all the Neighbourhood Watch volunteers, police men and women and Westfield staff, who showed a warm and enthusiastic community spirit. In particular, I would like to commend Senior Sergeant Brendon Jorgensen, who is the officer in charge of the Carina Police Station, and Ron Kreger from Carina Neighbourhood Watch One, for making this event a reality. I must also give credit to Westfield Carindale staff, who graciously agreed to fund the event and provided the location in the Westfield Carindale carpark.

I want to offer my thanks to Sergeant Jorgensen, who has been instrumental in keeping the Chatsworth community that I am proud to represent safe. He has always made the time to listen to local residents and action their concerns promptly. I say: job well done!