




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Crime

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.16 pm): May well the member for Stretton follow his obsession with the opposition leader by googling ‘Deb Frecklington and Scott Morrison’, but what happens when you google ‘crime and Sunnybank and Stretton’? What happens when you do that? The answer comes up: 1,500 people went in a protest march because they are fed up to their back teeth with the crime problems in the Sunnybank-Stretton area. That is 1,500 people who are sick of home invasions and sick of gunshots being fired at innocent people as they take out their rubbish. That is what is happening in this state at the moment. There is an escalating crime problem. I cannot recall when 1,500 people in the suburbs of Brisbane marched about any issue at all and here they marched in the backyard of the member for Stretton. The member for Stretton got up and addressed them.

An opposition member: What did he say?

Mr MANDER: Yes, what did he say? He got up and said that the crime rate is actually going down and there is no problem. How well did that go over?

Mr PEGG: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. The member for Everton is misleading the House. He was not even there.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order!

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Scenic Rim, I do not need your assistance. You will be warned next time. Member for Stretton, if you have any concerns with that, the process is to write to the Speaker.

Mr MANDER: Eyewitness accounts from members on this side of the House who were at that rally told me how the member for Stretton was received by his beloved electorate. They booed him when he got up and made the outrageous claim, ‘There’s nothing to see here.’

How well does the member for Stretton know his electorate and its problems? That seat was a safe Labor seat. We are going to come after the member for Stretton because we reckon we have an issue there and we will include the future member for Toohey, the now member for South Brisbane, in that as well after she makes a transfer.

We have an escalating crime rate in this state and there is no greater example of that than in the southern parts of Brisbane, in Sunnybank and Stretton, and the people have had enough of it. They have had enough of weak laws. They have had enough of police not being resourced properly. They have had enough of the revolving door of the juvenile justice system. They came out in numbers and spoke the other week and they will continue to speak until they get some sort of action.

It is only this side of the House that is serious about addressing crime. What we are seeing at the moment is failure after failure after failure not just in crime but in every aspect of government. We have had hospital fail, we have had rail fail, we have had jail fail and now we have watch house fail.

It was not until this morning when we were discussing the appalling images we saw last night that I understood why young kids were going around with blankets over their heads in those watch houses. The reason is, as the opposition leader has already mentioned, they are under the lights for 24 hours a day, seven days a week and some of them for 40 days. That is simply inhumane.

Dr Rowan: Torture.

Mr MANDER: That is torture; I take that interjection from the member for Moggill. These people opposite are the people who have been screaming about getting kids out of our detention centres, which we did on this side of the parliament, but they have said nothing about this. In answering the question, 'How long will it take to get these kids out?', the youth justice minister said, 'I don't know. Hopefully at the end of next year.' They have no solution. A mining camp can be set up in four days. Let's set up temporary accommodation inside the walls of the youth detention centres and get these kids out of the watch houses. It is simply inhumane. Anything would be better than what they are experiencing at the moment.

These kids have done things wrong and they deserve to be punished, but they do not deserve to be treated like caged animals, which is exactly what is happening at the moment, and there is total silence from that side of the House. For the Premier and the Deputy Premier to come in here today and in ministerial statements talk about the Magic Round rather than about the kids that are being held in captivity inhumanely is a shame.