



Speech By  
**Trevor Watts**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2019

**MOTION**

**Newman LNP Government, Performance**

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (12.19 pm): Following the member for Thuringowa I will table a *Townsville Bulletin* headline where he had to apologise for misleading his community, so people should not believe everything the member has to say. I will also table an article from Madura McCormack in the *Townsville Bulletin*.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 9 November 2017, titled 'Aaron Harper sorry for blunder on teacher aide nude photo scandal: MP Aaron Harper has apologised to the parents of children after a major blunder related to a Townsville teacher aide's alleged nude photo scandal' [1447](#).

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 21 May 2019, titled 'Disastrous Federal Labor outcome a warning for Townsville MPs: The disastrous election outcome for Labor in North Queensland should be seen as a "warning" to Townsville's three state MPs to stop towing the party line' [1448](#).

The headline states 'Disastrous federal Labor outcome a warning for Townsville MPs'. The article states—

The disastrous election outcome for Labor in North Queensland should be seen as a 'warning' to Townsville's three state MPs to stop towing the party line.

We all know how many weeks it takes to put on a regional parliament. It was just shortly after that headline that the regional parliament was announced for Townsville, so we all know why that is happening. Others have spoken about asset sales, and I might come back to that. For those who were looking for the names of the schools that were closed in Townsville, it was Dalbeg State School and Mingela State School. They were the two schools closed by the Labor Party here in Townsville.

I want to talk about why on earth these three members will not support law enforcement in the Townsville community. Ask anybody in Townsville if they think crime is out of control. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government there has been a 113 per cent increase in robberies. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government there has been a 52 per cent increase in unlawful use of a motor vehicle offences. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government there has been a 33 per cent increase in serious assaults. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government there has been a 35 per cent increase in assaults. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government burglary is up 42 per cent. Those are the statistics.

The percentage of the Queensland budget allocated shows the priority of this government because the percentage that has been allocated has dropped. In dollar terms that equates to \$1,173,000 since Anastacia Palaszczuk became the Premier of Queensland. That is what has happened: there is \$1 billion less. The number of police officers per 100,000 people in Queensland used to be 244. Under Anastacia Palaszczuk what do we see? We see—

**CHAIR:** The member will use members' correct titles in the chamber.

**Mr WATTS:** Under this Labor Premier what do we see? It is 233. The difference is 610 officers across Queensland. The reason crime is up all over Townsville is because it is not a priority. The three local members need to stand up for their communities and demand an increase in the police budget,

demand those officers are delivered here—not sometime in the distant future—straightaway, because when people wake up to see people at the end of their bed looking them in the face, they are terrified. They cannot sleep at night. These three Labor members are not taking crime seriously. If it were serious the budget would be up, and it is not.

*(Time expired)*