




Speech By
Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

Record of Proceedings, 18 June 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Sunshine Coast, Police Resources

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (6.32 pm): Labor are failing the Sunshine Coast. Because of their weak laws and lack of investment in police resources, the bedrock of our Sunshine Coast community and our easygoing lifestyle are under threat. Over recent weeks we have seen a number of high profile crimes committed across the Sunshine Coast. We have seen a violent home invasion in Buderim, break and enters in Sippy Downs and high-speed police chases on our roads across the Sunshine Coast. It is only through the work of our local police with the help of our community that these kinds of threats are not more common, but more needs to be done. Measures like CCTV, an increased police presence on the coast, improved community awareness and stronger measures to address—

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Morayfield, there is a provision that we are able to interject from any seat but not from the aisle.

Mr RYAN: I withdraw and apologise.

Mr MICKELBERG:—repeat offenders will all result in a reduction in criminal behaviour, and all of these are desperately needed across the Sunshine Coast.

Despite what the Labor government would have people believe, Sunshine Coast police numbers have not kept pace with the population growth that we are experiencing. When considered as a percentage of the population across the Sunshine Coast, there are fewer police on the job to keep our community safe. Our local police are stretched and they are doing what they can with the limited resources they have. They are working as hard as they can, but we need more of them on the Sunshine Coast to keep up with our rapidly growing population.

Issues like hooning, graffiti and public nuisance often play second fiddle to the higher profile crimes such as those I spoke of earlier. Despite this, their effect on the perception of safety in our community is pervasive and they need to be addressed. Many young families and elderly residents are telling me that they do not feel safe. Residents are fed up with being woken at night by the sound of screeching tyres and the noise of burnouts. They are fed up with young offenders stealing their cars and breaking into their homes.

I wrote to the Minister for Police asking for support to address these concerns, and the response that I received was pathetic. I call on the minister to work constructively with me and my Sunshine Coast colleagues to address the genuine concerns of our community. It is time the minister puts the community ahead of his petty political pointscoring. Community safety should be the government's top priority, but it is clearly not with this Labor government. It is clear that local residents do not currently feel there is an adequate police presence in their community to address the increasing levels of crime and antisocial behaviour. It is time for Labor to start governing for all Queenslanders and to listen to the voice of Sunshine Coast locals.