



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 July 2020

**MOTION**

**Youth Crime**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (5.02 pm): Youth crime is a serious issue and it is our government that takes it seriously. On this subject the LNP is a rudderless ship with a mutinous crew, floundering in a toxic sea of failed leadership. It is a leaky LNP boat that foundered on the Queensland border, holed by its own self-interest and disregard for the safety of Queenslanders. Navigate your way through the LNP's history and you will be swamped by a tsunami of broken promises. It is a shipwreck. In government, the LNP broke a promise to provide \$20 million for extra police to patrol safe night out precincts.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Buderim.

**Mr RYAN:** The LNP made that promise to the president of the Queensland Police Union but did not deliver.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Buderim, you interjected immediately after I cautioned you. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr RYAN:** That led to Police Union President Ian Leavers being featured in a TV ad criticising the LNP. Under the LNP, 110 senior police positions were abolished and more than 200 police personnel lost their jobs. 'We won't sell government assets,' they said, all the while developing a sneaky plan to sell off the police academies and privatise the state's prisons. 'We will boost police training and resources,' they said and then they cut firearms training, driver safety courses and taser training and they cut back on vital equipment and resources for our police.

The LNP does not learn from its mistakes. They have made so many that they cannot remember them all. It is called the goldfish effect. You cannot learn from the past if you cannot remember it. That is the only explanation for the LNP's thought-bubble youth crime policies. For example, the LNP talks tough about bringing back breach of bail as an offence. The problem is that you cannot bring back something that never was, yet they are bringing that back. Bizarrely, they have dusted off the Newman government's old failed crime plan. They want to do a sequel, *Boot Camps II*, and the critics have quickly lined up to throw rotten tomatoes. The Police Union's Mick Barnes reckoned it sounded like 'something that's out of Campbell Newman's era, minus the pink jumpsuit'. Professor Kerry Carrington said that the LNP's policies 'would have the opposite effect of reducing crime'.

Even the opposition leader seems to have doubts about her *Boot Camps* remake. First she said it was about rehabilitation, but the very next day she said that *Boot Camps II* was about retribution for the 'worst of the worst' or a form of payback. When it came to the cast of this dodgy sequel, the opposition leader was simply *Clueless*. When she was asked who would be staffing these 'payback

farms', the opposition leader replied, 'People.' I kid you not, Mr Speaker. It just gets *Dumb and Dumber*. We have seen *Boot camps I*. It flopped at the ballot box. According to the critics, *Boot Camps II* is also a dud. I reckon the LNP should have another go and then it will be three strikes, and we know what they want to do with that. This would be a joke if it were not so serious.

In stark contrast, the Palaszczuk government is serious about youth crime. Police prosecutors are successfully launching appeals in cases where it is clear that bail should not have been granted. There were two more winning appeals just this week. We are maintaining our 100 percent strike rate when it comes to appealing bail decisions. Our police are having great success targeting and prosecuting youth offenders. We are also addressing the complex circumstances that cause young people to offend in the first place. We listen to the experts, including police officers and the esteemed former commissioner, Bob Atkinson.

The LNP does not care about what works. They only care about themselves, outrageously cherry-picking statistics to create fake news and scare the community, yet when in power they were too scared to publish the annual crime statistic reports. For the LNP, with their recycled Campbell Newman crime policy, it is *Back to the Future*. *Boot Camps II* is destined to sink without a trace. I do not think it will even go to video.

In contrast, this government is taking real action. We are protecting the community. We are protecting Queenslanders. It is all part of our plan to unite and recover. We are supporting our police in the work that they do. We are supporting them with additional resources that are being deployed right across the state. On the weekend, with the commissioner I announced additional child protection offender register coordinators, almost doubling the number of child protection offender register coordinators. That will make a big difference in the government's approach to keeping the community safe and, obviously, will support the broader work that our Queensland Police Service does in protecting kids and keeping them safe.

We are very proud of our record when it comes to supporting our police. We ensure that they have the resources that they need to keep us all safe. Of course, we will continue to strengthen the law to make sure that the police have all the levers that they need to pull and apply to ensure that our community remains safe. I oppose the motion.