




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 2 December 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Mudgeeraba Electorate, Hooning

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (7.00 pm): I never thought I would say this, but I want to thank the Mexican Hoon Cartel. That is right: to the Mexican Hoon Cartel I say muchas gracias, amigos, for increasing my margin in Mudgeeraba after I ran a campaign to stamp out hooning. I thank them because it shows that, despite their destruction and intimidation tactics throughout the campaign, there is no love for hoons in our community. We do not want you here, and now I have a mandate to fight for the tough laws we need to dismantle these criminal hoon cartels.

Throughout the election they stalked and harassed me, my staff and my community because the LNP put forward policies that will not only slam the brakes on hooning but will break up this lawless hooning cartel that has infested our suburbs. A hoon in a balaclava even targeted one of my community corners, but I am happy to say that the offenders will pay the price for their reckless behaviour, endangering the safety of others. Do you know who the hoons were supporting throughout the election? Labor. They were telling their fellow hoons to vote for Labor because Labor's stance on hooning was a slap on the wrist compared to the LNP's. In fact, I want the people of Mudgeeraba, Clagiraba, Gilston, Reedy Creek, Numinbah Valley, Tallai, Robina, Austinville, Carrara, Springbrook and Merrimac to know that every time they cannot get to sleep because the hoons are skidding in their suburbs again it is because of the Palaszczuk Labor government's inaction.

There is no doubt that hooning is spiralling out of control in our area. Up to 50 hoons have been known to congregate at the intersection of Pine Creek Road and Nerang Murwillumbah Road at a time. It is not unusual for my office to receive 50 complaints per month about hooning on our streets through my 'hoon watch' form. That is why I have been taking action. I have written to the Gold Coast mayor with a list of hooning hotspots in the Mudgeeraba electorate, and he has begun investigations into the feasibility of cameras or anti-hooning strategies in these locations. As a result the council has committed to hundreds more covert CCTV cameras, but only if Labor amends the TO(RUM) Act. The Labor government needs to follow through on amending the TO(RUM) Act to put the onus of proof back on to the owners of the vehicles. However simply amending the TO(RUM) Act will not fix the issue. Labor must adopt the LNP's tough policies on hooning cartels as soon as possible.

We committed to bringing in tougher laws for hooning cartels like the Mexican Hoon Cartel, installing cameras at hooning hotspots and laying tyre-shredding road surfacing. My community will not tolerate hooning, and I encourage locals to continue sending in the hoon watch forms so we can keep busting hoons. I will not give up the fight. Viva la Mudgeeraba and adios to the Mexican Hoon Cartel!