




Speech By
Sandy Bolton

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

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ADJOURNMENT

Noosa Electorate, Community Safety

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (7.18 pm): Communities and frontliners across Queensland are increasingly frustrated by the disrespect shown by a minority of Queenslanders who continue to put others at risk. Noosa is no different, and even though we are fortunate to have fabulous police with statistics that show decreasing crimes, it does not mean there is a decrease in poor and dangerous behaviours. Offending and repeat offending have become a deep concern surrounding responsibility, culpability and consequences for our behaviours at any age. As one perpetrator of domestic violence said, 'Offenders need to own it.'

Our communities full of hardworking, decent and caring residents have had enough. They seek increased accountability for a range of offences, whether on the streets, in homes or what is perpetrated through social media. In other words, they want people to own their behaviours and to acknowledge what their actions create and how much it costs taxpayers and communities to safeguard against this.

There are many examples where we can make improvements immediately. Noosa and elsewhere have those who endanger themselves and other river users through their repeated dangerous actions. Simple changes can make a difference including introducing licensing, as they do in New South Wales and Victoria. It was a positive to have the War on Wrecks Taskforce include this in its draft recommendations. Loss of a licence and impounding of vessels are strong deterrents to these behaviours.

In addition, we have a cohort who are converging on our North Shore on day permits, putting our beachgoers and campers in danger through their hooning behaviours. Our unique natural offerings and beaches are being turned into a speedway and place of fear. This is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. I have welcomed news that drones will be added to policing resources and it is imperative that they be utilised to identify these culprits. However, we need appropriate legislation and integrated systems between QPWS and QPS to ensure these offenders are refused future permits as part of deterrence and consequences.

These drones can assist in so many areas to create greater safety. What we are experiencing in our beautiful Noosa rural villages is unacceptable, with some drivers, including in convoys of trucks, endangering lives by their irresponsible driving on narrow, winding roads that are shared by school buses, tourists, walkers and cyclists. Our police cannot be everywhere at once. We need whatever technology is available as a matter of urgency to keep our community safe, and I thank TMR and QPS for assisting me in this.

With the amount of education supports and rehabilitation available for offenders, there can be no further excuses. We must create greater accountability and responsibility. Our communities depend on us to do this.