



Speech By  
**Tim Nicholls**


**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 19 February 2020

**MOTION**

**Crime**

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (5.34 pm): This Palaszczuk Labor government is soft on crime. They are soft on the causes of crime. They are soft on their response to crime. They are soft in dealing with offenders. When it comes to crime, Labor is soft, soft, soft. Not only that, they have a failing memory because I remember what it was like under the Bligh government. We just heard the member for Bulimba say, 'If you keep doing the same thing you will get the same result.' They are doing the same thing and crime is going up. We are getting the same result.

Remember it was the Labor Party that did not want a helicopter for police in Queensland. It was the LNP that delivered Polair in Queensland. What have we got here? We have a Labor Party that does not want a police helicopter for North Queensland. They do not want a dedicated police helicopter. They want to share it around with everybody else because it is not important enough.

This is a debate that is both timely and important. It is timely because in the electorate of Clayfield there has been a surge in criminal activity, especially break and enters, theft and stealing cars. The debate is important because a government's, any government's, first priority is the safety and security of law-abiding citizens. We know our police work hard and the judiciary work hard, but their hands are tied by Labor's soft-on-crime policy agenda. Nothing shows this more than a Premier who, according to the media, told her own caucus members—she has been telling them a lot lately—that there is no crime problem and her MPs should stop complaining about it. I wonder what the member for Nudgee thinks about that? I wonder what the member for Stafford thinks about that? I wonder what the member for Aspley thinks about that? Do they agree there is no crime problem on the north side of Brisbane? Is that what the member for Nudgee thinks? I am getting the drum that the member for Nudgee is pretty worried about crime on the north side.

For five years we have heard and seen stories of juvenile offenders committing crimes in places like Townsville and Cairns, and it is to the great detriment of the people of those great Queensland cities. For five years we have had a Labor Premier in denial and refusing to act—a do-nothing Premier. That is why at the last election I committed the LNP to providing a dedicated police helicopter for North Queensland. I proposed tougher breach of bail laws. I proposed removing detention as a last resort from the Youth Justice Act to ensure courts could deal with juvenile offenders in accordance with the severity of the crimes they committed. It would result in untying the courts hands so the community could have confidence in the justice system—confidence they are losing under Labor. Labor opposed the program and still do, at great cost to communities across Queensland, including communities on the north side and in the electorate of Clayfield.

The increase has happened since the changes they brought in last year that the member for Bulimba can barely enunciate and can barely explain. According to the police statistics on the myPolice Brisbane north side website, unlawful entry in Clayfield in the Hendra division has increased from 53 in January 2018 to 164 in January 2020, a 209 per cent increase. In the last three months it has gone from 107 to 164, a 53 per cent increase. Other theft has gone from 226 to 329—

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Bulimba will put her comments through the chair.

**Mr NICHOLLS:**—an increase of 48 per cent. The unlawful use of a motor vehicle has gone from 44 to 71, an increase of 66 per cent. I table the crime statistics.

*Tabled paper:* Table, undated, titled 'Theft in Hendra Division' [293].

Almost every day our local community Facebook has a post from someone in Clayfield regarding intruders in garages and carports, break and enters in homes and shops and stealing. I table an extract from that page showing what is happening.

*Tabled paper:* Social media post on 4007/4010/4011 Community Noticeboard regarding a home invasion [294].

Perhaps most telling is an email I received from a 21-year-old constituent two weeks ago. I will table that email.

*Tabled paper:* Email, dated 3 February 2020, from constituent to the member for Clayfield, Mr Tim Nicholls MP, titled 'recent crime activity' [295].

While on holidays in January the family home was broken into. Four teenagers had allegedly stolen a car in Sandgate and driven to Clayfield. They allegedly kicked in a heavy wooden front door at about 4 pm that day. They appeared to have made themselves at home for 15 hours. They slept in the family's beds. They showered and used the family's accoutrements in the showers. They went through the whole house. They jumped in the family car at 7.15 the next morning and drove off taking cash, electronics, clothing and of course the car itself. I will read a paragraph from that email. It reads—

It is an odd feeling having known that complete strangers with not the best intentions have been through your entire house, know who you are, looked at all your family images, slept in your room etc—they have a complete profile of you.

We have gone through the police and insurance process and there is still an ongoing investigation open however, the judicial system continually seems to be in the offenders' favours and against us.

The only people who will right the balance, stand up for victims and protect the community is the LNP in Queensland.