



Speech By
Trevor Watts

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

Record of Proceedings, 18 March 2020

NOTICE OF MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Youth Justice



Mr WATTS (Toowoomba North—LNP) (10.52 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

1. notes:
 - (a) crimes committed by juveniles have increased following the enactment of clause 10 of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, known as Labor's 'catch and release laws' which implemented a policy of 'detention as a last resort' to be applied to bail decision-making and incorporated an explicit presumption in favour of release of youth offenders on bail;
 - (b) ongoing reports of juvenile offenders committing the most serious offences while in the community on bail;
 - (c) Labor's 'catch and release laws' prioritise the rights of offenders over the rights of victims and the community;
 - (d) the police minister's recent attacks on the judiciary, blaming magistrates for applying Labor's 'catch and release laws' because bailed offenders have gone on to reoffend while in the community on bail;
 - (e) the member for Cairns said he wasn't going to toe the party line, despite voting for Labor's 'catch and release laws' in August 2019, but has not raised the issue in parliament;
 - (f) the members for Gaven, Barron River, Cook, Thuringowa, Townsville, Mundingburra, Keppel, Rockhampton and Mackay all voted for Labor's 'catch and release laws' in August 2019; and
 - (g) the contradictory statements by the Minister for Police and the Minister for Youth about whether the intention of Labor's 'catch and release laws' was clear; and
2. calls on the Palaszczuk government to put community safety first and immediately scrap Labor's 'catch and release laws' this sitting of parliament.