




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MOTION

Crime

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (6.00 pm): Can anyone smell an election in the wind?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, I have been really clear about outbursts such as that in the past. It is very unbecoming of the House.

Mrs D'ATH: Instead of the Leader of the Opposition spending her five minutes clearly articulating what their policies would be, she just gave a run-down of who all their candidates are around the state. That is how important this issue is. This just shows the cheap stunts of those on the other side. We all know that it is the responsibility of everybody in this House to make good laws in relation to tackling crime in this state. However, those on the other side love to prey on people's fear. They do it time and time again. That is what the LNP do, and they ramp it up at election time to try to scare people into voting for them.

It is very easy to be outraged in opposition but it is what you do in government that counts. When they were in government, they were a spectacular failure. We just heard it from the Leader of the Opposition—their bikie laws, serious overreach.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana!

Mrs D'ATH: How many bikies ended up convicted? Zero. Well done! They were a great success!

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. The member for Southern Downs is warned under the standing orders.

Mrs D'ATH: Then there are their breach of bail laws. It is extraordinary. We just had the Leader of the Opposition, who is a lawyer, saying that if the offender reoffends when on bail nothing happens because the breach of bail offence is not there. How many lawyers are there on that side? Can someone inform the Leader of the Opposition that when someone offends they can be charged, on bail or not? That is a reality. To say nothing happens—

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I hear, 'They are not.' I take that interjection. Are they saying the police are not charging them? Are they blaming the police for not charging these individuals? I am sorry—I thought they were saying that, no, they do not blame the police and they do not blame the courts. There was so much inconsistency in these speeches tonight. It is extraordinary.

I want to pick up on some of their comments. The member for Surfers Paradise said that the LNP are going to fix the problem once and for all. Fantastic. 'Statistics do not lie,' we heard from the member for Burdekin. The member for Clayfield spoke of a 'failing memory'. We have a long memory. If they want to talk about crime statistics, I can say that the reality is that those on the other side did everything possible to bury the facts from the people of Queensland. They got rid of the annual crime statistics reports. They certainly did not want to talk about what they did with boot camps. If we talk about the investment we have made into youth justice in this state, it is certainly not spending \$2,350 a day for a boot camp compared to \$999 for a youth detention centre bed, in which—

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The member for Toowoomba South is warned under the standing orders. The member for Coomera is warned under the standing orders.

Mrs D'ATH: That was \$16.7 million over three years. What did it achieve? Let us see. The audit report at the time said that, of the 31 distinct young people who had completed the program, 73 per cent reoffended between the end of their order and 31 March 2015. It went on to say that this was well below the target of 75 per cent non-reoffending. There was a 75 per cent non-reoffending rate in the contracts, yet 73 per cent were reoffending. What did they do to try to reduce crime? By the way, a breach of bail if we look at the history did nothing to reduce offending at all.

They also cut programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Works. They cut diversionary programs, youth justice conferencing, the Murri courts and the Drug Court. They say they are going to build drug rehabilitation clinics to tackle drugs. They bragged about it in Townsville, but I remember the interjection when I asked where they were going to build them—'Not in the community because the community don't want them next door'. They are going to put them so far away from where the problem is that no-one will actually be in them so it will be another white elephant.

They are all talk. They go and promise the world and then when they get into government they fail to deliver every single time. They go out there with false promises misleading victims. The way they treat people in the community is appalling—time and time again. They should stop playing politics. One piece of advice I have for those on the other side is they should talk to their colleagues in New Zealand who have actually reached a bipartisan approach to youth justice in their country. They understand the importance of taking politics out of these things, and the LNP could learn a lot from them.

(Time expired)