



Speech By  
**Amanda Camm**


**MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 November 2021

**MOTION**

**Caloundra, Youth Remand Centre**

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (5.31 pm): I am very pleased to speak against this amendment and to support my colleagues the members for Kawana and Ninderry. It is a very sad day when a member from North Queensland has to stand up on behalf of the constituents of Caloundra because their own member will not stand up for them. While he does share his experience as a corrections officer, what he does not share is his experience and his ability to engage and listen to his local community. In particular, when you are criticising and questioning the 6,000 petitioners who took the time—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Pause the clock. Member for McConnel, you are on a warning.

**Ms CAMM:** When the member for Caloundra is questioning the credibility of some 5,000 petitioners from his own electorate—6,000 in total—you can assure the member for Caloundra that the LNP's next candidate for the seat of Caloundra will know exactly who they are.

This parliament and this government has one thing to do, and that is focus on community safety and community consultation in the public interest. I am very pleased to stand up to support my colleagues and to call out when a poor decision has been made on the run. The Minister for Police talks about the toughest bail laws in Australia. The lack of toughness has created a revolving door of recidivism in this state and we feel it on the Sunshine Coast, in Brisbane, on the Gold Coast and all the way through to North Queensland. I remind members from Townsville about how rife and how tough their bail laws are and what they are doing up there in Townsville.

I also draw the House's attention to the population growth on the Sunshine Coast. We in the opposition are fighting for infrastructure, for upgrades, for livability and for more police on the Sunshine Coast. When 500,000 people are expected to be living on the Sunshine Coast in 2040, one would think that an enhanced watch house, enhanced police resources and enhanced police services would be needed. When the Sunshine Coast is one of our biggest tourist destinations, one would think an investment in policing would be valued.

I recognise the member for Ninderry as a former detective on the Sunshine Coast. It is incredible that he might actually know something about crime on the Sunshine Coast and that he might actually know something about police resourcing on the Sunshine Coast! Heaven forbid that anyone in this House would take any notice of a former police officer who has served our great state and who understands his community!

I would also like to draw the House's attention to an issue that flies in the face of what the police minister has said here this evening about the toughest bail laws and some of the other loopholes that actually exist across our state and in the government's youth crime policy. The Mackay magistrate has

exposed safety gaps at state residential care facilities in our local community in Mackay in North Queensland. Youth justice representatives were informed by Child Safety that residential workers actually undertake 16-hour awake shifts and eight-hour asleep shifts. From 10 pm to 6 am, there is no direct supervision. When questioned by the magistrate, the department confirmed that, yes, when youth are in the care of the state, those who are supervising them are asleep.

We talk about youth crime and when youth crime occurs. The last time I checked it did not stop between the hours of 10 pm and 6 am. Across my region and the 17 residential care homes, the resourcing and policy loophole that exists is not helping the recidivism, it is not helping young people and it is certainly not keeping young people out of trouble. We see this government make decisions about a residential care facility for repeat youth offenders on the Sunshine Coast because of poor planning and a lack of community consultation, and now we see the minister clutching at straws with an amendment.