




Speech By
Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

Record of Proceedings, 17 November 2021

MOTION

Caloundra, Youth Remand Centre

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (5.41 pm): What a rock show! What a display of abject ministerial incompetence by the Minister for Police—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. You have made a ruling for the member for Southern Downs to be removed from the chamber for an hour. I understand that he is sitting in the advisers area and that is not removing himself from the chamber in accordance with the ruling of the Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I will have to take some advice in relation to that.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I will take advice in silence.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will just finish taking advice and then I will take your point of order. What is your point of order?

Mr BLEIJIE: In response to the point of order, if I can assist, Mr Deputy Speaker, when a division is called, a member cannot stand in the advisers box and claim to be in the chamber and have their vote counted. I suspect that when the standing orders were drafted 'the chamber' refers to the line of where the bar goes up in a division. Otherwise, if we accept the Attorney's point, you would be voting from out the back.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will stop you there. I appreciate the efforts of attempting to assist, but I will take the advice of the Clerk. I cannot see whether the member is in the chamber in the area that has been indicated by the Leader of the House, but if the member is in the chamber in that area he needs to leave the entire area that is considered to be the chamber. That has been the convention of the parliament. I would ask the member to remove himself completely from the chamber.

Mr MICKELBERG: Well, it is all the big issues from those opposite! We have seen a Minister for Police who cannot even get the basics right, who cannot even move an amendment to the motion we are debating here tonight. When they do finally sort out an amendment, through the member for Waterford riding him to safety, they cannot even get that right. The amendment we are debating proposes that we 'note the consultation regarding the proposed use of the Caloundra watch house and a new youth remand centre'. Are we getting both? Are we getting a watch house and a youth remand centre in Caloundra? The watch house is not there anymore; it has been relocated to Maroochydore. Which is it? The member for Caloundra should know, but he does not know because he does not listen to his community.

Labor must scrap their plans for a youth jail in the heart of Caloundra. It is hard to believe that something so detrimental to a vibrant community like Caloundra would even be considered. At a time when business and community groups have been working to make the heart of Caloundra more attractive to visitors, this out-of-touch Labor state government wants to build a jail smack bang in the middle of it.

Labor know very well that the Sunshine Coast community does not support a jail being built and that is why they made no mention of it in their plans before the last election. The member for Caloundra campaigned for a new police station, but he conveniently forgot to tell his constituents about his government's plan to instead close the police watch house and pile young and often violent criminals into a youth jail. Make no mistake: this was a sneaky tactic by Labor to pull the wool over the eyes of Sunshine Coast residents. There was no consultation with locals and even when it was carried out, after plans were already in place and funding was allocated, it was superficial.

The member for Caloundra has been in hiding since the member for Kawana and the member for Ninderry aired his secret plans earlier this year. If the member for Caloundra is fair dinkum about standing up for his community he will start listening to his constituents, 5,000 of whom have signed a petition to stop this jail.

Those on the other side, like the member for Macalister, are trying to convince the Sunshine Coast community that it is not a jail but, as the opposition leader said, if it looks like a jail and it locks like a jail, it is a jail! This youth remand centre does not affect just Caloundra. Its repercussions will be felt right across the Sunshine Coast and will impact residents who have chosen the Sunshine Coast to create their home.

Crime is already rapidly increasing across the coast, thanks to Labor's weak laws and inadequate police resources. In the suburb of Sippy Downs in my electorate, crime has jumped 46 per cent since Labor came to power in 2015. Property damage is up 192 per cent, assaults are up 185 per cent, theft is up 103 per cent and unlawful entry is up by 67 per cent under this Labor government. Imagine having some young thug creep into your home while your family sleeps. Every week I hear from Sunshine Coast locals who have been violated by criminals breaking into their homes, into their safe place, and stealing their cars. We have seen home invasions, armed robberies and vicious assaults, many of which are still not resolved. Daily we hear reports of young thieves targeting families in suburbs like Sippy Downs, Mountain Creek and Pelican Waters. Their despicable acts traumatise families and they leave a lasting effect on people who spend their lives trying to do the right thing. We do not need a youth jail in the middle of Caloundra; we need more police.

The population on the Sunshine Coast is exploding. Instead of creating a bigger problem for our local police, the police should be resourced adequately. Give our local police stations like Sippy Downs the resources they need to get on top of the young offenders who are holding the Sunshine Coast to ransom. Putting a jail in the middle of Caloundra will only increase the presence of criminals on the Sunshine Coast.

The member for Caloundra knows that tonight the eyes of his community are on him. They are watching to see if the member for Caloundra is here to fight for Caloundra or if he is just here to serve his Labor masters. He has shown through his actions tonight—

An opposition member: Missing in action.

Mr MICKELBERG: He has gone missing in action; I take that interjection. He is here to serve his Labor masters and has abandoned his community. I call on everyone to support this motion and reject the government's amendment. Most particularly, I call on the member for Caloundra to serve his community.

(Time expired)