




Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Petition, Watts, Mr B

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.06 pm): I table a petition with the names of over 72,000 people who have signed for Sian Kingi.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding opposing the release of Mr Barrie Watts [890](#).

That is 72,000 people who remember the atrocities committed against her and the monster who committed them; 72,000 people who have joined her family, her friends and our community to send a clear message to the Queensland Parole Board that Barrie John Watts should remain in jail. Last Sunday, just 10 days ago, Sian's family, her friends and our community put out a call, a call to all Queenslanders to join our campaign to keep Sian's killer behind bars. In that short time they have overwhelmingly answered that call.

The Parole Board of Queensland is an independent body and I respect their independence. Their mission clearly states when making decisions the board's highest priority will always be the safety of the community. Their primary consideration is to make evidence based decisions as to whether there is an unacceptable risk to the community if a prisoner is released on parole. The petition tabled here today is clear evidence that Queenslanders firmly agree Barrie John Watts is an unacceptable risk to our community.

If Watts were to be released and he was to reoffend, it would tragically be predictable. We only need to remember Rodney Williams or another Barry, Barry Gordon Hadlow, convicted child killers who were released into our community only to kill again. Releasing Barrie John Watts risks history repeating.

Sian's parents have never spoken publicly. They want me to pass on their heartfelt thankyou for the overwhelming support they have received from the community during this campaign. They also want me to put on the record that they have grave concerns for anyone living in any community into which Watts is released.

In 1987 the sentencing judge agreed with them by saying, 'The sentence for murder is life imprisonment and in my view the sentence should mean just that.' He called Watts an 'evil man devoid of any sense of morality'. Sian's teachers and friends have been asking me, 'How is it possible that Watts is even eligible for parole?' How is it possible that the monster who killed their friend had been caught, sentenced to life in prison and yet may soon be back in the community? They were told back in 1987 that they did not need to be scared anymore, but now they are scared again, and rightly so.

The parole application has already inflicted more unnecessary pain on those closest to Sian. I have promised them all, just as I promise the 72,000 people who signed this petition, that for as long as I am here I will fight to keep Barrie John Watts and others like him out of our community.