



Speech By  
**Daniel Purdie**


**MEMBER FOR NINDERRY**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 November 2021

**MOTION**

**Caloundra, Youth Remand Centre**

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (5.14 pm): I rise to support the original motion moved by the member for Kawana. It is interesting to follow the police minister. He had five minutes on his feet to justify to all of us here and to all of the people of Caloundra and the Sunshine Coast why this is a good decision by the government. The minister likes to come in here and talk tough, like he did just then and like he did this morning, but we in this House know and the people of Caloundra know and the people of Queensland know that actions speak louder than words. This government has moved a litany of dire amendments to water down the Youth Justice Act in this state which has ended in tears.

**Mr RYAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. You have just made a very specific ruling about relevance and the member has been going for almost a minute now and has not spoken at all about a specific facility nor has he kept to the motion before the House. He is talking about everything else.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Members to my left, I do not appreciate interjections while I am trying to take and consider a relevant point of order. I will start to warn members if that occurs again. I have been listening to the contribution of the member. I am giving some latitude to see whether we are getting back to the tenet of the motion, as we generally tend to do in presiding over this House. I will continue to listen, but I ask the member to stay relevant to the motion.

**Mr PURDIE:** I return to the Youth Justice Act, which is an overarching act which police use every day when they detain offenders and put them in a youth justice facility. That takes me directly to the point we are going to be talking about today—the youth jail in Caloundra.

When talking about actions speaking louder than words, we saw in 2015 one of the first bills tabled in this parliament by this government was a youth justice amendment bill that blatantly watered down powers available to our police to protect the community from repeat violent young offenders. The objectives of that bill were (1) to scrap the youth bail offence; (2) to reinstate detention as a last resort as the overarching No. 1 principle in the Youth Justice Act. I do not know whether I have told members of the parliament before, but I used to be a police officer. I like to keep it on the down low.

**Mr RYAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I know that you were seeking some advice. If the amendment were relevant then the member's contribution would be relevant. The member has not discussed anything about the facility.

**Mr Janetzki** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Resume your seat, please. Member for Toowoomba South, you are warned. I had previously instructed the House that I do not appreciate members interjecting while I am trying to deal with and take a point of order.

**Mr RYAN:** Deputy Speaker, it is about relevance and consistency with your previous ruling about the amendment. If the amendment was still in order, what the member for Ninderry would be saying would be entirely relevant but, given your ruling and what the member for Ninderry is saying now, it is entirely irrelevant.

**Mr KRAUSE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Morayfield is clearly reflecting on the chair. I ask you to rule his point of order out of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is no point of order.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The amendment that you have ruled out of order had never been put to the House anyway, but that does not stop members from rebutting points made by other members in this debate—which has happened since the day this parliament opened. Members contribute to the debate and then it is open and there is opportunity for other members to rebut certain points. Whether or not an amendment has been ruled out of order does not change what the minister said in his contribution. I put to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, in response to the minister's point of order that the members are entitled in this House to rebut the points made by the minister.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** In response to both your points of order, I will listen to what the member has to say and make an appropriate ruling. I was taking some advice while that was going on. I will take some advice from the Clerk. The amendment was ruled out of order, as you correctly pointed out. The minister's contribution was specifically to the amendment. Therefore, it is not available for rebuttal. I call the member for Ninderry to make your contribution relevant to the motion.

**Mr PURDIE:** I like to keep it on the down low, but I was a detective in Caloundra where this proposed youth jail is planned. The minister just had five minutes to explain to us why it is a good idea but he could not. He spent four minutes going through a document from 2013 in which a department person recommended that the watch house be converted to a youth jail. Do members know what the difference was? Leadership! The boss at that time, the member for Kawana, said no. That is why until recently the police still had a watch house at their disposal at Caloundra.

I am talking directly about the failures of this government that have led to the requirement for a youth jail in Caloundra. When you go back and look at the next step in their litany of failures it is like watching an episode of *Seconds from Disaster*. In 2016 another youth justice amendment act moved 17-year-olds into the Youth Justice Act, essentially moving all 17-year-olds held in prison into youth detention facilities. At that time I can say that youth detention facilities were already at capacity. I was on the front line at the time and we questioned that decision. I believe that the president of the police union, Ian Leavers, came out at that time and said, 'More planning goes into building a local McDonald's than went into that decision.' Fast-forward a couple of years. In May 2019 there was expose on *Four Corners* that revealed 90 kids were being held in police watch houses predominantly here in Brisbane.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr PURDIE:** Exactly right. Fast-forward a couple of months. In August that year—still talking about kids in detention—there was another bill tabled in this parliament to water down the Youth Justice Act. The objective of the bill was to remove further barriers from young offenders getting bail. All of my colleagues at the time warned the government that all this was doing was transferring the problem from youth justice back out onto the street. We warned the government it would end in tears, and it gives me no pleasure to say that it did on a number of occasions: it did on Australia Day, it did at Toutai Kefu's house, and heaven forbid the list goes on.

Now this minister turns up talking tough on crime, but it is a charade because the actions of this government, their overt soft-on-crime agenda, is louder than the words this minister is jumping up and down about. Which takes me to the point that the highest priority of any government is the safety and security of its citizens. This government is failing in its highest priority, and this youth jail in Caloundra is an example of that. Not only that, it is a case study of how this government does business. Prior to the election this minister stood up at Caloundra and promised the people of Caloundra and the Caloundra police a new police station, more police and more resources. We now know from estimates that at the time he was talking to our police and the local community he knew that a deal had been done to deprive our local police of their watch house. It was funny when the announcement came out—

**Mr RYAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The statements are personally offensive and misleading and incorrect, and I ask for them to be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member has taken personal offence and asks that you withdraw.

**Mr PURDIE:** I withdraw. But it was deceptive. The government stood up, promised a new police station—

**Mr RYAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The statement is personally offensive and misleading and incorrect, and I ask for it to be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister, statements can be personally offensive. If you find them misleading, there are other processes to follow in relation to that matter.

Member for Ninderry, the member has found the statements personally offensive and asks you to withdraw.

**Mr PURDIE:** I withdraw. In summing up, I call for this police minister to show some leadership like the former AG, the member for Kawana, did. Say no to this youth jail in Caloundra and give the police back their watch house!