




Speech By
David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Record of Proceedings, 18 November 2021

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Toowoomba, Youth Crime

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.06 pm): I represent a beautiful city. I represent a beautiful part of the world. I join the member for Toowoomba North in doing so. However, the month of November has seen an alarming spike in crime in our community. Time and time again in my office I hear serious complaints spread right across my electorate, into the Toowoomba North electorate and across Condamine. I am sick of it. The community is sick of it. The police said that there has been a spike in crime. We must be doing more to address it.

Just this month—and I note it is only 18 November today—there are streets across the 42 square kilometres of Toowoomba South in which robberies have occurred. Cars have been stolen. Hammers have been used to break down screen doors and front doors. Aggression and violence are involved in these thefts right across the city. I will quickly highlight some of the streets that have been publicly affected since the start of November: Boundary Street, Leslie Street, Burton Street, Paperbark Drive, Mackenzie Street, Elliot Street, Hennenlotter Court, Culliford Drive—twice—Melody Drive, Velodrome Estate, Hursley Road, Anita Drive, Long Street, Smythe Street, McInnes Crescent, Peachy Street, Cohoe Street, Geddes Street. Right across the suburbs of my electorate: Glenvale, Centenary Heights, Darling Heights, Middle Ridge Range, South Toowoomba.

Something must be done. Youth justice has been a serious problem in this House ever since 2015 when this government wound back the Liberal National laws. Time and again the government changed the bail laws. The government took 17-year-olds into the youth justice system, resulting in a blow-out in watch houses. We have seen them come back in and change the bail laws again to address some of these problems. Then they decide to blame the magistrates, but it is not the magistrates' fault; it is the fault of this Labor government that continues to get the law wrong in Queensland.

We have been talking for a very long time about the need to bring back breach of bail. We saw that it was working, but now the community in Toowoomba is very concerned about the levels of crime. We need to change the law. It is not just a matter of changing the law; we need to better target police resources to address the causes of crime and of crime right throughout the community. We need to be getting behind neighbourhood watch—and I note the member for Toowoomba North is starting a neighbourhood watch as have I—but people are sick of this crime. They are sick of the spike in crime. It is up to the government to get the law right. They have changed it time and time again throughout the past seven years. Our communities right across Queensland in Toowoomba and beyond deserve so much better.