



Speech By  
**Jason Hunt**


**MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 17 November 2021

**MOTION**

**Caloundra, Youth Remand Centre**

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (5.24 pm): I would like to move an amendment to the member for Kawana's motion.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Members on my left, I want to hear the proposed amendment so I would ask for silence while the member is moving the amendment.

**Mr HUNT:** I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'notes' be omitted and the following inserted:

'the consultation regarding the proposed use of the Caloundra Watch House and a new youth remand centre; and endorses the Palaszczuk Labor government's strong youth justice reforms, which includes the toughest youth bail laws in the country.'

**Mr WATTS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I wonder if the amendment has been circulated to the chamber for us to review.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It has just been signed. It will be circulated as soon as the attendants are able.

**Mr HUNT:** I know how I am expected to respond to this issue. As a former soldier and former custodial officer, community safety has been the underpinning factor of my working life. If I am to be nearer the tone thus far I am supposed to utilise volume, hyperbole, theatre and shrieks of hysterical exaggeration, but I will instead fall back on my 21 years of service as an officer in Queensland's largest high-security jail. While the LNP lost track of 1,700 child sex offenders when last they were in government, I was actually pulling 12-hour shifts in the facility where that occurred. I was working with the same monsters the LNP deliberately lost track of. Let's reflect on that for a law and order issue. A potential youth justice facility of up to 20 young people is apparently the end of civilisation as we know it.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member for Coomera!

**Mr HUNT:** Deliberately losing track of 1,700 child rapists is apparently no big deal.

**Mr Krause** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. Member for Scenic Rim, you can leave the chamber for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Scenic Rim withdrew from the chamber at 5.26 pm.*

**Mr HUNT:** The proposal talks about the location of the potential facility, and in that respect it is not unlike other watch houses and custodial facilities. The Helana Jones Centre, which is a similar size, is in the middle of Albion. The Woodford Correctional Centre is 2,500 metres from the CBD of Woodford. Nearly 1,500 of the state's most deadly high-security prisoners are also near a school, a retirement village and a residential housing complex with zero net effect—

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Coomera, your interjections are not being taken. You are warned.

**Mr HUNT:** I have also lived the experience of the LNP's commitment to custodial operations. The member for Kawana told the *Courier-Mail* in 2014 that he had information that prison staff were not facing any more danger as a result of overcrowding. It is almost as tragic as the member for Kawana suggesting that the families of young offenders would move to the region while an offender is on remand. So a hypothetical family from Rockhampton will apparently break their lease, uproot their entire life, find a rental on the Sunshine Coast, live there for less than 38 days, break their lease again and move back to their community. What complete nonsense! Let's also examine an issue from the member for Kawana's own document while attorney-general. The LNP and the member for Kawana's own draft youth detention centre demand strategy 2013-2023 said—

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Coomera, you can leave the chamber for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Coomera withdrew from the chamber at 5.28 pm.*

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, were you reflecting on the chair?

**Mr CRANDON:** Absolutely not.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I would ask you to leave the chamber in silence.

**Mr HUNT:** From their own document we hear that the facility could be operated to a safe and secure standard. The site is close to police and ambulance services and the site is situated under the Caloundra courthouse for bail applications hearings. Most importantly, the site could be used as a short-term weekend remand facility, which is strikingly familiar.

It would be remiss of me to ignore the petition from the member for Kawana, and I will shortly table some of its edited highlights. We are all aware that sometimes signatures can be very suspicious. Indeed, at times and across all manner of documents, signatures can be investigated. For example, I would like to reach out—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members, the level of noise and interjection is far too high. The member is making a meaningful contribution. He is not yelling and screaming, as some other folks choose to do during this particular debate. I would like to hear what the member has to say and I am sure many in the House would like to hear as well. Those who are speaking after the member would like the opportunity to rebut what the member is saying if they do not agree with him. I ask members to remain silent while we hear the remainder of the member's contribution.

**Mr HUNT:** One of the petitioners is 'John'—nothing else, just 'John'. He apparently lives in Caloundra although there are no actual details for 'John'. 'John', however, is in better shape than 'S'—no names, no details, no address, simply the letter 'S'.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Members, that ruling goes for both sides of the House.

**Mr HUNT:** Apparently, this mystery letter of the alphabet also lives in Caloundra and, like Zorro, simply identifies themselves by a single consonant. This government will not engage in this high farce around this serious issue but will continue to consult and deal in the facts while putting the safety of the community first. I table the petition.

*Tabled paper.* Extract from a nonconforming petition, tabled by the member for Kawana, Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, titled 'Say no to Labor's youth jail in Caloundra' [1954](#).

*(Time expired)*