



Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Linard**


**MEMBER FOR NUDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 November 2021

**MOTION**

**Caloundra, Youth Remand Centre**

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (5.48 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment moved by my colleague the member for Caloundra. I will start how I intend to finish, and that is by acknowledging the voices of Queenslanders, who have the right to feel safe in their homes and communities. The community were very clear in February when they called for tougher measures to address serious repeat youth offenders, and we responded. In February, we introduced the toughest show cause provisions in the country. Those measures have had an impact. Approximately 100 more young people are in detention now than a year ago and they are being remanded for longer. We heard the voices of Queenslanders and we responded.

Since coming to government, we have invested more than half a billion dollars in our youth justice system. We have invested in more youth detention beds—a 33 per cent increase—we are holding more young people to account and we are investing in programs to give young people the opportunity to turn their lives around. In the budget this year we announced funding to complete a detailed business case for long-term additional bed capacity and funding to repurpose the Caloundra watch house to a short-term temporary remand facility. The Caloundra watch house has been used by the Queensland Police Service as a secure facility to detain adults and young people since 2005. It is located between a police station and a watch house. It has capacity. It is for these reasons that it is being considered.

It is also for these reasons that it was considered by those opposite in their report in 2013—a report that stated the safe and secure nature of the facility as one of its benefits. This is a fact that the member for Kawana has conveniently left out, along with all other relevant facts in his recent political campaign. I say ‘political campaign’ because it has been about politics and nothing else—not the community, not community safety, just politics. While the member for Kawana, the member for Ninderry and the opposition leader at times have played politics with this proposal, the member for Caloundra has been engaging with his community, he has been listening to his community and he has been meeting with his community. While the member for Kawana has been grandstanding in front of a camera, the member for Caloundra has been engaging with his local community. I know who I would want as my local member if I lived on the Sunshine Coast—the member for Caloundra, hands down.

The member for Caloundra invited me up, organised a meeting with local stakeholders, listened to their concerns and has throughout our two public engagement periods faithfully passed on their feedback while the member for Kawana has this week tabled a petition listing first names and in many cases just an initial and a suburb as far away as Mount Isa—no last name, no contact details. That is a nonconforming petition. Table a conforming petition. If he were serious about meaningful consultation, he would have given me those contact details so that I could respond. But, no, the member for Kawana knows that I would respond with factual information and not misleading political lies.

The comparison between the politicking of the member for Kawana and the advocacy of the member for Caloundra could not be starker and the comparison between those opposite who have no plan regarding youth justice—no plan, no policies, no idea—is abundantly clear. That is why they shout loudly in here. That is why they shout down the barrel of a camera every chance they get, but they had no plan when in government for youth justice, and they still have no plan. We have a plan.

We have introduced the toughest youth justice laws in the country to target high-risk offenders. We are putting more police on the beat, partnering our youth justice workers with police and diverting young people from offending and into safe places. We are investing more into intensive case management of repeat offenders, more into intensive evidence based interventions and we are partnering with the Noffs Foundation to establish a dedicated youth drug and alcohol residential program. We know there are no silver bullets to solve youth crime, but while those opposite continue to play politics with this issue—the politics of fear—we will listen to Queenslanders and act.