




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 17 November 2021

MOTION

Caloundra, Youth Remand Centre

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.04 pm): I move the following amendment—

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

'endorses the Palaszczuk Labor government's strong youth justice reforms, which include the toughest youth bail laws in the country.'

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! The member on his feet is moving an amendment. I would like to be able to hear that amendment.

Mr RYAN: I continue—

endorses the Palaszczuk Labor Government's strong youth justice reforms, which include the toughest youth bail laws in the country.

Let us firstly talk about the Caloundra watch house. Ever since that building was built it has been a place of detention. Ever since it has been built that place has had the capability and capacity to hold people who break the law. It is used to hold people who do bad things against our community. It is a place of detention.

While we consult with the community about the use of that facility, it is important—the member for Kawana is very good at rewriting history; the member for Kawana is very good at not being clear and up-front with the community, including his own community and also his own party, I think—to refer to a document entitled the *Draft youth detention centre demand management strategy: 2013-2023* produced by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Who was the boss of that department at that time? It was the member for Kawana. I bet he has not even squared this away with his colleagues. Let us have a look at this. It had to be RTIed. The member for Kawana did not want the public to know about this. Part 4, 'Proposed management strategies—medium term options', states—

Potential use of the Caloundra police watch house—

wait for it!

for detaining young offenders on short-term remand.

It was his department that proposed it in the first place. Let us have a look at it a bit further. They talk about medium-term strategies. It states—

One key medium-term solution has been identified for further detailed consideration to manage the youth detention population until new capacity comes on stream. This includes potential use of the Caloundra police watch house.

They did not just consider it; they actually investigated its use. They go on—

An initial investigation into the Caloundra police watch house occurred to determine the viability for use as a youth detention.

Then they went on to talk about the benefits of using it. This is a cracker. They did not just think about it, they did not just consider it, they did not just investigate it, they actually recommended a suitability assessment. It says, 'The option is suitable.'

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister, resume your seat.

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to standing order 244(5), which reads—

Once members have entered the Chamber they must take their seats and not stand in any of the passages or gangways.

I ask you to so rule about the member who is speaking from the gangway or the aisle.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The level of interjection generally in this debate has become very disruptive and unruly and I will not be tolerating it as we move forward. Member for Surfers Paradise, there is no point of order and your point of order borders on frivolous.

Mr RYAN: The question for the member for Kawana is: when he was the boss of the department that found the Caloundra police watch house suitable, did he square this with his community?

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mr RYAN: Did he square this with his colleagues?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister, resume your seat. Member for Scenic Rim, I am placing you on a warning.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Leader of the Opposition, you are warned.

Mr RYAN: When he was the boss of this department, did he square with his colleagues—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you are warned.

Mr RYAN:—that his agency found it suitable? This government is taking strong action when it comes to keeping the community safe. We have taken strong action on youth justice. It has been confirmed—

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, that interjection is completely unnecessary. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Mr STEVENS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Under standing order 253, I understood the member had to be warned before he had to leave the parliament.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was attempting to give him a warning. He would have heard it if he were not yelling at the top of his lungs. The member can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Southern Downs withdrew from the chamber at 5.09 pm.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw to the attention of the House that the minister four minutes ago moved an amendment. No member has had an amendment circulated to them. We are in a debate and members should have the courtesy of knowing what we are debating with the amendment that has been so moved. I ask the minister to tell us where the amendment is.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I wish to advise members that the amendment is being copied and will be circulated as soon as the attendants can reasonably achieve that.

Mr RYAN: It has been confirmed by experts and practitioners in this space, including representatives of the Youth Crime Taskforce, Assistant Commissioner Scanlon and Senior Executive Director Michael Drane from the department, that the laws that we have in Queensland are the strongest youth justice bail laws in the nation and they are achieving their intended purpose. They are ensuring that more of those serious, recidivist, hard-core offenders are in custody longer and more often. In fact, there are 100 more of these offenders in custody today than prior to our reforms.

Our government has taken strong action. Those offenders are being held to account. We are not just backing it in with strong laws. We are backing it in with additional resources for youth justice and the Queensland Police Service which is making a difference on the ground. That is what we are hearing from practitioners and from police officers: it is making a difference on the ground. We are also backing it in with additional resources for our police statewide, with extra police personnel and youth justice co-responders being established, doing that front-end work so that we can intervene and prevent crime. I commend the amendment to the House.