




Speech By
Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Gold Coast, Crime

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (7.24 pm): I rise to add to the comments made by the member for Surfers Paradise. I have similar issues in my electorate of Burleigh. Quite frankly, I am getting sick and tired of this government shoving their heads so far into the sand that they have not seen daylight for years. They ignore the issue and then reinvent history. They have a wonderful record of that.

Two weeks ago some of my neighbours, who are both in their 90s, heard a noise downstairs at their property. The gentleman of the house went downstairs and saw somebody standing in his backyard. That person threw a paver through the window. The glass smashed everywhere and the gentleman's legs were cut. Those two 90-year-olds had a patron saint living next door who came to their rescue, only to be stabbed by the assailant. Luckily, that person has been caught. The government should tell those 90-year-olds that they are tough on crime because those people do not believe it. The gentleman who was stabbed does not believe that this government is tough on crime.

Over the weekend hoons were racing around Tahiti Avenue, Palm Beach. They rolled a car and I gather that somebody was injured. Luckily no bystanders were injured. The government should tell the people who live in Tahiti Avenue that this government is tough on crime because they do not believe it. We are seeing massive increases in graffiti throughout Burleigh and Palm Beach. The government should tell the business owners whose shopfronts are painted and damaged by young vandals that this government is tough on crime because they do not believe it.

It is called the 'thin blue line' for a very good reason. It absolutely is a thin blue line at the moment because this government is way behind in providing police for our police stations. Numerous times in this place I have spoken about the police numbers at the Palm Beach Police Station. About 35 officers are allocated to the station but at any one time there are only 30-odd police there, which means that when people call the police they cannot come. They have to prioritise the calls they attend.

It has got to the stage when people do not call the police. They call my office to say what has happened. I say, 'Have you called the police?' They say, 'We don't call the police because, quite frankly, they don't come.' That is not the police's fault. It is the government's fault because they have not allocated enough police. Earlier today the member for Lockyer told us that police numbers per 100,000 are down. This government is failing at its prime responsibility of keeping our people safe.