



Speech By  
**Ros Bates**


**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 May 2021

**MOTION**

**Youth Crime**

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.21 pm): I rise today to support the motion moved by the member for Burdekin. This is a matter of great public interest in my electorate and across the width and breadth of this state; that is, the continuing rise in youth crime and the devastating impact it is having on our communities—an impact exacerbated by the government’s unwillingness to reintroduce the LNP’s breach of bail provisions to keep recidivist young criminals behind bars where they belong. Good people are having their lives wrecked by gangs of young hooligans on drugs who are out on bail and free to do as they please because the good men and women of our Police Service have their hands tied. They cannot hold these young crims and the courts do not have the laws to punish them. Instead, they are free to continue their criminal ways and their antisocial campaigns which threaten the peace and harmony of communities across Queensland.

In my electorate it is having a devastating impact. Let me tell you, Mr Speaker, about one example. A good friend of mine and a good friend to the community of Mudgeeraba is a tireless volunteer called Belinda. Without her and her band of helpers, the Mudgeeraba Redbacks Junior Rugby League Club would not operate. She works, she mothers, she gives to her community, and what does she get in return? The loss of her property, vandalism and sleepless nights filled with fear. Her car was stolen by young thieves in January this year after a 24-hour crime spree. Her family car was found filled with rubbish and seriously damaged. It ultimately had to be written off. The offenders were inside and duly arrested. Despite this being their 20th criminal offence, they were then released without detention. That is right, Mr Speaker: their 20th criminal offence. Twenty times they have been caught breaking the law; 20 times they have been released right back into the community they terrorised.

What do those opposite say? The youth justice minister says, ‘As offenders change the way they offend we will have to be flexible and respond.’ I ask you, Mr Speaker, what does that even mean? To Belinda it means that the car she worked hard to buy to ferry her children and teammates around is trashed, destroyed and written off. It was found with flat tyres, discarded clothes and unidentified suspicious materials in the back seat. She was told by the smash repairers to which it was towed that it was too risky to let her even look inside. It means hours wasted dealing with insurance companies seeking to replace the car she worked so hard to buy so that she could support her family and her community.

The 13-year-old girl responsible told her, ‘I didn’t steal it. I just took it for a spin.’ From those comments we can clearly see that she has no sense of responsibility for her actions and the impact of the crime. There were certainly no consequences. She was let off straight from the court to the streets. It is no wonder she has notched up 20 crimes.

This is more evidence that this government is losing control of Queensland. They are more concerned with hand-wringing and social experimentation than tackling this difficult and complex issue head-on. The minister said, ‘We do not repeat the same thing which does not work.’ Here is a tip, Minister: What you are doing is not working for Queenslanders—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Through the chair, member.

**Ms BATES:** I am sorry, Mr Deputy Speaker; through the chair. When they park their car at night they have the right to have it there in the morning. When an offender is caught and arrested, citizens have the right to expect a commensurate punishment for the crime. Instead, these thugs are released with no penalty and no encouragement or incentive to change their ways.

It may be too hard for Labor, but the LNP is ready to do something about this crime wave. That is why this morning we moved this motion to condemn the Palaszczuk government for its lack of action on youth crime and called on it to bring back breach of bail as an offence. These reforms demonstrate the type of leadership we need to see in this state. With hooning cartels running rampant on the Gold Coast, we also call on the Palaszczuk Labor government to adopt the LNP's tough hooning policies. We see the overlap between hoons and damage to public property amongst those other crimes. We see them posting their antics online, much like youth offenders. It keeps locals up at night. They do not feel safe in their beds under this Labor government.

We must put crime above politics and we must consider the livelihoods of those at risk in our communities. We must take on the crims and steer them away from a life of crime. We must guarantee that the good people of Mudgeeraba can live their lives, including the selfless community support they provide, without fear. Enough is enough!