




Speech By
Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

Record of Proceedings, 22 June 2022

MOTION

Youth Crime

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (5.30 pm): I start by commending the member for Capalaba for his conviction to stand in solidarity with his community and I would encourage and call on the member for Cairns, the member for Townsville, the member for Thuringowa and the member for Mundingburra to also stand with their colleague. When I and many members on this side of the House travel to North Queensland we hear the public sentiment, hear from victims of crime, hear about the cohort of youth recidivism across this state and hear about the vast number of crimes exploding across this state, across Townsville and across Cairns, which has seen a peak of car thefts like we have never seen before.

I also draw the attention of the House to some statistics—and I think it is important that we reflect that it is in fact those opposite who have been in power for seven years, funnily enough: 2018, two teenagers killed in a stolen car on the Gore Highway north of Goondiwindi; June 2020, four teenagers killed in Townsville in a stolen vehicle; June 2021, a 13-year-old boy killed in a stolen car of a residential care worker—the coronial inquiry is underway and I think the findings of that will be quite tragic; February 2022, three teenagers taken to hospital after the crash of a stolen car south of Bowen; February 2022, a 14-year-old died in an allegedly stolen car in Cairns, with five other teenagers also injured; and June 2022, a 13-year-old boy died on Monday morning in Toowoomba in a stolen car and charges have been laid against a 14-year-old boy. Then there are the tragic victims that this motion speaks to as well, and I place on the record my condolences and extend those condolences to the victim in North Queensland, Jennifer Board, who lost her life.

Queenslanders are fed up with the failings of those opposite, and this stems back seven years. This stems back to the previous child safety ministers. This stems back to the youth justice ministers.

Mr Last interjected.

Ms CAMM: Failed child safety ministers; I take that interjection from my colleague. This points directly to a broken system that is not just failing public safety across our state but also failing the youth and failing the children who entered the care of this state. What we ask for is quite simply a reform that will empower police to not just protect their communities but to protect these young people from themselves. I will take the advice from three police officers who served this great state—the member for Burdekin, the member for Ninderry and the member for Lockyer—over any of those opposite. I will take the insights of those who know the law. I will take the insights of those who have dealt with the system for many years—multiple decades—over those across the chamber.

We continue to hear that the issue is complex. We know that the issue is complex, but introducing breach of bail is not a complex law reform. In fact, we have seen petitions not just from almost 55,000 Queenslanders. There are also petitions in Far North Queensland from those in Cairns, those in

Townsville, those who continuously contact my office and contact the member for Burdekin and many others on this side because their own elected members do not stand with them and do not speak out on behalf of those victims of crime.

Mr Minnikin: Don does!

Ms CAMM: I take that interjection, and we once again congratulate the member for Capalaba for doing so. Last week I travelled to Toowoomba and met with a mother who is very fearful that her son will end up in a stolen car and will kill an innocent family. Do members know what? She expressed to me how the child protection system has failed her, has failed her son and has failed other parents. When they seek intervention and they seek support, they are only left with the options that a broken system provides, and it is not good enough.