




Speech By
Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

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ADJOURNMENT

Sunshine Coast, Youth Crime; Mooloolah River Interchange

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (6.04 pm): Sadly, the Sunshine Coast is not immune to the crime crisis gripping Queensland. The trend that we have seen in Cairns, Townsville and down to Toowoomba is increasing on the Sunshine Coast, particularly in some of our newer communities like Sippy Downs, Palmview and Mountain Creek. In Sippy Downs the number of unlawful use of a motor vehicle offences has doubled in the last year. Times are tough when residents go to bed at night unsure if their family car will still be parked in the driveway or in the garage the next morning.

Every day, Sippy Downs community pages on Facebook are punctuated with CCTV footage of young criminals testing car doors and breaking into vehicles. Having your car stolen takes a huge financial and mental toll on victims on crime. Tradies lose their work station and equipment and they need to cancel jobs. Kids cannot be dropped off or picked up from school. Every Queenslander deserves to feel safe and secure in their communities, especially in their own home, but right now many do not.

We heard from local police this week who said that property crime is on the rise on the Sunshine Coast, with transient criminals coming into our communities to target our homes and our businesses. Construction sites are also a major target. Workers at a local IGA store in Sippy Downs were held up a couple of nights ago at knifepoint. Fortunately, the offender was caught by the police dog squad quickly. Our police are doing the best they can with the limited resources they have.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member, can I just confirm that none of these matters you are raising are subject to charges?

Mr MICKELBERG: None of the matters that I have raised offend the sub judice rule.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have the call.

Mr MICKELBERG: What we need is more crime prevention—more boots on the ground and a higher visibility of uniformed police. Since the day I was elected to this House in 2017, I have been calling for more police resources to be allocated to the Sippy Downs Police Station. I am regularly contacted by residents who are unable to contact the station, which is often unmanned, and who feel that a larger police presence is needed to address the growing crime rate. Our local police are working hard with the limited resources they have to tackle crime, but the crime wave washing over our community right now is swamping them. When asking to be re-elected at the 2020 election, Labor promised another 2,000 extra police officers statewide. I would like to know where they are because they are most certainly not in Sippy Downs, and we need them.

In the brief time I have left, I would like to address the stress that several of my constituents are currently under due to their homes being resumed to make way for the Mooloolah River Interchange project. Those residents understand that the infrastructure project is long overdue, that it is important and that land acquisitions are a part of that process, but what is of concern is how those residents are

being treated and the lack of support that is afforded to them through that process. They tell me that they have not been afforded fair compensation or assistance in finding another home and, considering we are in the middle of a housing shortage and affordability crisis on the Sunshine Coast, that is simply not good enough. Some of these residents are spending \$100 a night on motels. The state government and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads need to do more to support these Sunshine Coast residents in their hour of need.