




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2022

MOTION

Hervey Bay, Youth Crime

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.24 pm): It is all well and good for those opposite to come in here and fearmonger and talk about statistics, but I have not heard a single proposal, suggestion or plan that those opposite have to help keep our community safe. They come in here all high and mighty—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms LAUGA: We know that breach of bail does not work. Please, can you give us something new! They come in here all high and mighty, they are all talk and no action, but mostly they are all care and no responsibility. It is incredibly frustrating—

Ms PEASE: Fearmongerers.

Ms LAUGA: They are fearmongerers. I will take the interjection from the member for Lytton.

I rise to speak against the motion moved by the member for Burdekin and in support of the government's amendment. The LNP simply cannot help themselves when it comes to cheap political stunts and attacks. That is why I support the minister's amended motion in respect of the importance of community safety. There are two words that those opposite do not talk about. They do not talk about community safety. They like to talk about crime. It is all part of the fearmongering process they go through to scare our community when we should be talking about positive solutions—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms LAUGA: Solutions that work and not just solutions that you have already been through and we had 90 per cent recidivism as a result of.

I support the record investment by the Palaszczuk government in community safety measures and acknowledge the strong advocacy of the member for Hervey Bay in support of his community. Rather than political stunts, the Palaszczuk government is focused on improving community safety. These are tough, complex issues that require multiagency approaches and some of those approaches do not see immediate results. They take commitment. Our focus remains resolute to reduce crime, to keep our community safe and to ensure young offenders are held to account for their actions.

Let me be clear: perpetrators are caught, brought before the courts and sentenced to prison if they are a risk to community safety. Community service, curfews and other sentences can also be imposed by the courts. Like everyone on this side of the parliament, I would prefer to see young people supported to make better choices and live happy and healthy lives, which is why prevention is paramount. Those opposite want to lock kids up and throw away the key. They have been promising for months to deliver a crime plan, but still it has not seen the light of day. Those opposite love generating fear but have absolutely no plan other than to lock kids up and throw away the key.

It is a fact that we will not and cannot ever stop youth crime altogether, but we can all work together as a community to improve community safety and help support families to give our kids a great start to life. We will not hear those opposite talking about working together to improve community safety.

No, they prefer to fearmonger. Those opposite continually call for a breach of bail offence in Queensland. Their finding of guilt while on bail, which is what the opposition now refer to as their breach of bail law, was in operation in Queensland in 2014 and 2016. We know that it failed. Why can those opposite not just admit that this policy failed?

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Coomera, your interjections are not being taken.

Ms LAUGA: Of the 185 young people convicted under the LNP's furphy offence, over 90 per cent reoffended within 12 months.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Southern Downs.

Ms LAUGA: Of the 185 young people convicted under these breach of bail laws, over 90 per cent reoffended within 12 months and 94 per cent reoffended in two years. Do they call that a success? The LNP's offence carried with it no actual punishment, applied to a very small number of young people and had no appreciable impact on reoffending. Surely those opposite can come up with something better than that—something that has already been proven to fail. We on this side of the House repealed that offence because it simply did not reduce youth crime and could not be used to hold offenders to account. It rarely influenced the decision at the point of arrest or subsequent court appearances because the offence could not be used until after the finding of guilt, which could be weeks or even months after the second instance.

I will use my remaining time to lend my support to the great member for Hervey Bay. He is a wonderful member who stands up for his community. He fought for and is delivering a brand new fire and rescue station in Hervey Bay, a new school hall at Urangan and new classrooms at Pialba. He has delivered a new creative arts centre at Hervey Bay State High School. He has fought for and is delivering a brand new \$34 million mental health unit in Hervey Bay.

(Time expired)