




Speech By
Bryson Head

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2022

MOTION

Hervey Bay, Youth Crime

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (5.10 pm): I rise to speak to the motion moved by the member for Burdekin. I do this for the people of Hervey Bay who are going through the same struggles as many businesses in my own community. Imagine having someone knock on your door in the middle of the night because the business you have built up over decades has been broken into. You would just think to yourself: why bother? This is what one of my constituents in Chinchilla said to me the other day after their jewellery business was smashed up by juveniles. Chinchilla has had five businesses broken into in a matter of weeks. That has taken an horrific toll on my community.

Imagine what the community of Hervey Bay is feeling. They have had 40 unlawful entries in the last month. That is more than one a day. That is happening under the watch of the member for Hervey Bay and the Palaszczuk government. Maybe—just maybe—if the member for Hervey Bay and his government supported the introduction of breach of bail offences the people of Hervey Bay could live in a peaceful community once again. Maybe—just maybe—the people of Callide could too.

We keep hearing about staff shortages in the police force. Imagine the pay rise that \$220 million could give our hardworking police officers. Think about the number of police stations this could build. That \$220 million could have ensured that many more police stations across the Wide Bay and further afield were adequately staffed. My community in Jandowae might not be without their own police station, which is currently unstaffed, if the government spent this money in the right way. That \$220 million could have gone to things like this, but it did not; it built the biggest white elephant this House has seen. By 'built' I mean wasted. It was wasted on none other than Wellcamp. Think for a moment about the pressure this money could have eased on the health system so that those of the Wide Bay did not have police officers spending their time sitting on hospital ramps with patients because the ambulances are unable to unload their own patients.

The Palaszczuk government has a generation of failure behind it when it comes to youth crime. They have tried GPS trackers and failed. They repeal laws that work, remove systems that are delivering change and ignore vulnerable and at-risk youth. They only ever respond in a moment of overwhelming crisis. They have changed the law. They have commissioned review after review. They have ignored findings and redacted recommendations. Well, the time is here for a comprehensive crime plan. The government must have the courage to admit that it is wrong. I support the motion moved by the member for Burdekin because the people of Hervey Bay, the Wide Bay and all of Queensland deserve better.