



Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 22 June 2022

MOTION

Youth Crime

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (5.19 pm): I also rise to support the motion moved by the member for Burdekin. Late last year on the Sunshine Coast three young recidivist offenders from Caboolture who were well known to police stole a BMW from Shelly Beach. They drove around town creating mayhem for a little while and then they started heading back down the highway to Caboolture when the car ran out of petrol on the side of the road. Do you know what they did?

Mrs Gerber: What? They torched the car?

Mr PURDIE: No. Some people might think it is a good suggestion.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Your comments will come through the chair.

Mr PURDIE: Some people might think that they panicked, they tried to hide the evidence, they tried to torch the car or they tried to wipe their fingerprints. Did they try to hitchhike home? Did they run and hide? Do honourable members know what they did? They rang triple 0 and they said, 'The stolen car we're in has just run out of petrol and we need a lift home.' This Attorney-General and this police minister might love coming in here and doing a 'tough on crime' pantomime like we just saw, but that says everything we need to know about what recidivist juvenile offenders think about the laws in this state, how weak they are and how they have absolutely no respect for them and no respect for our police who every night are chasing the same kids over and over again. That is the respect they show. That is what these juvenile offenders think about the laws of this state.

We heard the minister who spoke previously talk about it being a complex issue and we heard the Attorney-General talk about figures from 10 years ago. I can tell honourable members that 10 years ago crime was going down—from 2012 to 2015. In January 2020, just before COVID, before most of our police were redeployed to borders and quarantine checkpoints, there were more crimes committed in Queensland than ever before, than ever in the history of this state. That is the legacy of this police minister, who likes to talk tough on crime. However, it is not a complex issue because history has the answers. We know that in 2015 the top priority of the Palaszczuk government when they won office was to water down the Youth Justice Act and water down the laws available to our police. They implemented their soft on crime regime. What we have seen since then is that crime has spiralled out of control, and we heard some of the stats earlier this afternoon.

Our police know the current laws do not work. Victims know they do not work. Communities across Queensland who are in the grip of a youth crime crisis know they do not work. The families of victims who had their lives destroyed know they do not work. Over 53,000 people who signed our petition calling for tougher laws know they do not work. Do honourable members know who else knows they do not work? The member for Capalaba, the Chief Government Whip; he knows his job is to take

the temperature of the backbench and support his leadership team. He has taken the temperature not only of the backbench but also of his community. I applaud him for showing the courage to join in our campaign, to join our local police and those on this side of the House in calling for tougher laws.

We know this government is all talk and no action. After that tragedy, which we have heard about tonight, at Alexandra Hills on Australia Day last year we saw the lightning bolt, the heat in the community over that when a juvenile recidivist violent offender killed Matty, Kate and their unborn son, Miles. As a circuit-breaker this government also announced a 'tough on crime' youth crime crackdown to pretend they were tough on crime. At the time we called it window-dressing. The headline to that policy was GPS trackers—

Mrs Gerber: What a joke.

Mr PURDIE:—and what a joke that was. How has that gone? At the time those of us on this side pointed out it would not work. Our police knew it would not work. At the moment in Queensland not one juvenile offender is wearing a GPS device because they need to consent to wearing it, they need to consent to recharging it every eight hours and the police actually need to give them a free phone to link with the GPS tracking device. It was never going to work. This government is totally inept when it comes to crime.

It is not just the community and the victims who need to be protected because this government are letting down these vulnerable youth who end up in the system committing crime. Only on Monday a 13-year-old child died in a stolen car at Oakey and four vulnerable young juvenile offenders, who should have been in protection or in the care of the state, were injured. I understand at the time the driver still had his leg in plaster from a chase the week before during which he had rolled a car. He got out on bail again and took three of his mates for a drive and one died. It is not just communities and victims who need protection from these juvenile offenders; they need protection from themselves.

I call on every member of the government to support their Chief Government Whip and support our campaign for tougher laws.