




Speech By
David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2022

MOTION

Cairns, Youth Crime

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (5.19 pm): I sometimes wonder how many victims of crime the police minister and the Attorney-General have actually spoken with.

Mr RYAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am personally offended by the proposition that the member is putting and I ask him to withdraw it.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, I will be making a ruling on the point of order. Member for Toowoomba South, the minister has found those words offensive. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr JANETZKI: I withdraw. The two words that caught my attention in this motion that was so well drafted by the—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, member for Toowoomba South. It appears that there are interjections happening to my left which is making it difficult for me to hear you.

An opposition member: We are very supportive.

Mr SPEAKER: They may well be in support but I cannot hear the speaker on his feet.

Mr JANETZKI: The two words of the member for Burdekin's motion that caught my eye were 'devastating impacts'. What we know from speaking to victims of crime is the personal cost of crime. When we see in Cairns a 115 per cent increase in the unlawful use of a motor vehicle in the last quarter compared to 12 months previous, when we see a 115 per cent increase in unlawful entries in the previous quarter compared to 12 months before, we know the human cost that that involves. Even in the last month, there were 59 vehicles stolen in Cairns, and five houses and businesses every day were broken into. Imagine the devastating impacts on those people—the sanctity of their home, the trust that has been lost.

They are the 'devastating impacts' and that is why on this side of the House we will always bring motions like this. When the members in the Far North are silent on this, we will speak on their behalf. This crisis has not just come about recently. I look really fondly upon the former member for Nicklin, Marty Hunt. Marty would speak so brilliantly in the five o'clock scream. Marty Hunt would talk about—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: We are going to come to that; there are going to be motions about that in time. The former member for Nicklin, Marty Hunt, would speak about a generational failure of Labor to address youth crime in Queensland. We do not have a couple of hours to deal with youth crime tonight, but I want to talk briefly about the last seven years of failure because we will never hear about that from

those opposite or the Far North members. Do members remember when Labor brought 17-year-olds into the youth justice system with no plan which created the watch house crisis? Do members remember the watch house crisis?

An opposition member: It's still going on.

Mr JANETZKI: It is still going on. Do members remember that there was a public servant they also wanted to shut down back then, the Public Guardian, Natalie Siegel-Brown? They were pretty keen over there not to hear from her. That is another public servant who wanted to blow the whistle on the watch house crisis. Then out of the blue they created a brand new youth justice system. They walked in and changed section 48 of the Youth Justice Act. They spent hundreds of millions of dollars after the worst *Four Corners* interview we have ever seen by the then youth justice minister. That was \$500 million thanks to Mark Willacy. We saw thousands of pages of reviews—much of which was redacted—and hundreds of recommendations that were never implemented.

Now we have the member for Cairns who is silent. I think he has now given up on seriously trying to solve this problem. In 2020 the member for Cairns was blaming the baby bonus for the youth crime crisis. In 2021 he was saying, 'We've got to write letters and be penpal friends.' He thought letters were going to solve the problem. Even in the last month, the member for Cairns has been saying that putting up some drones will solve the problem. He wrote an op-ed at the start saying that he shares the frustration of the people, but the truth is that the member for Cairns is completely out of ideas, bereft of ideas, as to how to solve this youth crime crisis.

What we have in this motion tonight is once again the LNP standing up for the people of Cairns. We could have made this motion about the economic failures of the Labor government to address a small business package in Cairns, but at a time when Cairns is getting ready to welcome 30,000 or 40,000 tourists, what was the story last week in the *Cairns Post*? Under the heading 'Cairns public urination problem makes CBD, Shields St stink ...', the article stated—

What is meant to be the premier pedestrian retail thoroughfare of Cairns, Shields St mall, has become a public toilet ...

The member for Cairns and other members over there are out of ideas. If the member for Cairns cannot speak with conviction in Cairns, there is no-one listening to him in Brisbane.

(Time expired)