




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2022

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): When the Attorney-General said this morning in the House on domestic violence, ‘We hear you, we see you, we believe you,’ I looked across at the police minister because I was so incensed at what he said last week when he said that he was not aware of the cultural issues that have been reported in the domestic violence royal commission. Back in 2018 I wrote to Minister Mark Ryan about these cultural issues but there was an absolute deafening silence from the minister.

I spoke recently with Lou Lander, a survivor of domestic violence. In 2018 Lou wrote to me. Some of her accusations included that she was told by police that she hardly looked like a victim of domestic violence. I wrote to the police minister about that in 2018. He responded and said he had referred it to the police for investigation. I then wrote to him again in 2018 and said that I did not accept his response because it was a most serious matter and given the issues raised I thought he would have taken the matter seriously, rather than just write back a couple of paragraphs.

He then wrote back to me, and bizarrely the police minister said to me that my comments were ‘unfair and unfounded’. ‘We believe her, we see her’—no, the police minister did not. He did not believe Lou Lander and he did not see Lou Lander. I was so incensed and angry when he said a few days ago that he was not aware of these issues because we have been writing to the police minister about these issues for years. He has been the police minister for six years.

I wrote to the Premier in March 2019 expressing no confidence in the police minister’s ability to be able to handle and believe the domestic violence survivor Lou Lander. I pleaded with the Premier for support and assistance. I said that how Minister Ryan responded was a disgrace and that it was an apathetic response to my constituent. In showing how disgraceful the response was, I said that I was shocked and appalled at Minister Ryan’s attitude towards my constituent where he did not believe her. I then wrote to the Premier in May 2019, after receiving a response from the Premier where she said she would have her department look into it. I never got a response to that. I asked, ‘What do you mean look into it?’ I then hand wrote a note to the Premier in which I said I was very concerned at how her police minister had so flippantly dispensed with this issue and Ms Lander’s concerns.

I thank Ms Lander for the bravery and courage she had to stand up and call for this minister to resign. The police minister said two days ago that he remembered the case well. If he remembered it well, he should have looked down the barrel of the camera a few days ago and apologised to Lou Lander for not taking her matter seriously enough. He should have looked down the barrel of the camera and apologised to all domestic violence survivors and sufferers in this state whom he has failed to do anything for during the last six years. He has failed to acknowledge the seriousness of this issue.

He is like a kid in this portfolio. He is a juvenile. He has used the Pullen family for his own political advantage. He has used domestic violence victims for his own political advantage, saying he has taken the matter seriously when we know he clearly has not. He then stood up today and started talking tough on crime. I remember years ago he said that getting rid of bikies in Queensland was just like crushing a cockroach. That is the juvenile man we have in the police portfolio at the moment. He does not take these matters seriously. The LNP will be accused of many things, but being soft on paedophiles we will not cop and being soft on sex offenders we will not cop.

This government would have everyone believe they are tough on law and order. If they were so tough, if this police minister was so tough, we would not have the youth crime crisis we have in the state at the moment. When we moved legislation to put sex offenders in jail indefinitely, the Labor Party opposed it. They opposed it because they stuck up for the sex offenders and the paedophiles in this state. We were the party that put in legislation that said, 'Put them in jail forever.' They said no and they opposed that legislation when we moved that legislation in this House. Cry me a river, Minister Mark Ryan. You are not tough on crime. This Labor government is not tough on crime.

Finally, can I table this? Project fact sheet: Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro project. Look at the picture—dry, arid farmland. I went up to where this pumped hydro scheme is going to be developed and look at the contrast. Look at the valleys. The government would have you believe that this is just dry and arid farmland; it is not. I table that.

Tabled paper: Bundle of documents, titled 'Project fact sheet—Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project' including two photographs [1986](#).

Where is the environment minister standing up for the environment? Where is the Minister for Communities standing up for communities? Where is the Minister for Indigenous Affairs standing up for the native title holders of that land? No consultation, unfunded, no plan, wrecking lives and wrecking livelihoods, without any business case, without any EIS. It is a disgrace!

(Time expired)