



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Sunshine Coast

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.00 pm): As we enter the festive season, I wish everybody in the Kawana electorate a very merry and safe Christmas. As we know, many people in my electorate are still suffering because of the cost-of-living crisis, energy and fuel price rises and the housing crisis. I have been raising the issue of the housing crisis for many years and, unfortunately, I do not think what the Premier and government announced today will ease the housing crisis. I want to give a shout-out to our community groups that will be helping the less fortunate in our community over the festive season, particularly Gateway Care. Gateway Care provides mental health support for many our community who are suffering because of the cost-of-living crisis.

I reflect on the sad news that NightQuarter have announced that they are closing down on the Sunshine Coast, taking with it many jobs in the live entertainment industry. I thank Ian and Michelle for bringing NightQuarter to the Sunshine Coast. Unfortunately, due to lockdowns and restrictions, their business was not able to flourish again after COVID. It is very unfortunate to see NightQuarter closing down and the loss of an element of live entertainment on the Sunshine Coast.

I call on the government, as we approach the new year, to address the issue of youth crime. I am sick and tired of seeing people's homes broken into and cars stolen. The government are not holding young offenders accountable for their actions. I again plead with the government to get on top of the youth crime crisis and to hold young people accountable for their actions. We have a huge hooning issue on the Sunshine Coast. I am asking the government to invest in CCTV cameras at our hotspots. There are so many roads I have written to the government about, pleading with them to put CCTV cameras in so that we can catch these criminals in stolen cars. They are refusing to do it, saying that it is a council issue. Council are not doing it, so I call on the government to get on board.

I again call on the state government to fund the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail from Beerwah to Caloundra and from Kawana to Maroochydore. We need this heavy passenger rail. We are now nine years away from the Olympics, and the government still have not committed the 50 per cent funding for heavy passenger rail, despite the fact the federal government have committed their 50 per cent funding.

I thank Kawana Waters State College, which recently held its community food festival. What a great community event it was. I was so pleased to get up on the stage with Rickie and the band and be Elvis. They did not want the member for Kawana; they wanted Elvis Presley. I was so happy to sing not only one song but to do a medley of Elvis songs, including *Blue Suede Shoes*. I absolutely loved it so I thank Rickie for giving me the opportunity. I say to Rickie, 'Thank you. Thank you very much.'

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Member, that is borderline unparliamentary!

