



Speech By  
**Lachlan Millar**


**MEMBER FOR GREGORY**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2022

**MOTION**

**Youth Crime**

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (5.20 pm): I support the motion moved by the member for Currumbin. The issue here is that it is not only affecting places such as Cairns, Townsville and Brisbane; it is now affecting regional and rural areas. I want to talk about a bloke called Darren Bauman. I have known him for a long time. He comes from the town of Dingo. The Bauman family are well known around that area. He has now had to shut down the Dingo pub because of 17 break-ins—constant break-ins.

**Ms Lauga:** It's not closed.

**Mr MILLAR:** I take that interjection from the member for Keppel. This crime spree goes from Rockhampton all the way out to the gem fields. The member for Keppel must know that this is an issue in Central Queensland. It starts in Rockhampton and goes all the way to Emerald. People's lives are being impacted by this. Not only are we seeing perpetrators losing their lives; we are also seeing innocent people lose their lives and now businesses are losing income.

I spoke to Darren Bauman this week and he has just had enough. He has had enough of continuing to see his premises such as the Dingo pub broken into, so he has decided to shut it down. There is now no pub open in Dingo. People's lives are being impacted by these juveniles who continue to haunt places in Dingo and Blackwater and all the way to Emerald. Darren also owns the Dingo Roadhouse. It is a famous roadhouse and a lot of traffic goes past it. It continues to be bombarded by juveniles trying to break in. In fact, I sat down with Darren a couple of years ago when this was all starting to get a bit too much. He has been calling on the Queensland government to try to find a solution. Basically, we have a pub that is shut down and a roadhouse on tenterhooks.

I will give honourable members an example of what happens at the Dingo Roadhouse. When something goes wrong, the police know who the perpetrators are. They ring the Dingo Roadhouse. They ring Darren or his staff at the Dingo Roadhouse and say, 'We've got a blue car that has been stolen. This is the registration. It's coming your way.' Darren says, 'Well, what are you going to do about it?' They cannot do anything about it. They cannot chase the car. They cannot stop the car. Darren has terrified staff at the Dingo Roadhouse. There was one instance where a car was coming to the Dingo Roadhouse with a certain registration number and they were told the colour was blue. The police asked them not to put fuel in the car, to stop it there. Darren said, 'Just put 10 bucks in the car to get it out of here.' We found out later that that car was carrying illegal firearms. These are the situations where people's lives are at risk when they are just trying to do their job. One of the big issues Darren has is he cannot get staff anymore. People do not want to work in an environment where they feel threatened at night.

Just for the record I will make a point about statistics. Let's look at Mount Isa. The big issue there now is that the tourism industry is under threat. Unlawful use of a motor vehicle is up 76 per cent. Unlawful entry is up 46 per cent. Assault is up 61 per cent and other theft is up 54 per cent. If we go to the town of Goondiwindi in the electorate of Southern Downs, we see there is a huge crisis. I have a lot

of affection for Goondiwindi. It was the town I was born in and where my mother's side of the family comes from. Goondiwindi does not deserve to be treated like this. I have been looking at the statistics. Unlawful use of a motor vehicle is up 11 per cent; unlawful entry is up 75 per cent; assault is up 103 per cent in Goondiwindi—103 per cent—and other theft is up 42 per cent.

These are country towns just trying to get on with the job. It is hard to get staff as it is and now we are starting to see businesses threatened by offenders continuing to try to break in. I feel so sorry for the people in Townsville. We hear those concerns about cars that are on the road all the time and people just want to lock the door. In the case of Cairns, I was talking to Darren Bauman who had been in Cairns recently. He said, 'People say, "Just don't go out tonight. It's just too dangerous at the moment."'

I call on the minister to fix this. She can fix this and restore some confidence in the people of Cairns and Townsville but, most importantly for me, in Dingo, Blackwater and Emerald. Those cars go from Rockhampton all the way out to the gem fields and the thieves continue to break in at different towns and people are sick of it. Minister, fix it!