




Speech By
Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Currumbin Electorate, Crime

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (7.27 pm): I ask the members in this chamber to imagine themselves driving a friend home late on a Saturday night. They have just stopped at a local 7-Eleven in Coolangatta. This is the situation one local recounted to me last week—

We went and got a coffee and stood outside for about five minutes having a conversation. Then all of a sudden, I am bashed in the back of my head. I looked up and said 'why would you do that'. There were about ten of them, kids, with knives. They punched me to the ground, kicked my head in, and no one came to my defence.

When faced with situations like this, it is not good enough for this government to simply be concerned with how things look. They must actually be concerned with how things are. Last week the member for Burleigh and I held a crime forum at the Palm Beach Currumbin Sports Club. It was attended by 58 local residents, and this was just one of the horrifying stories that we heard.

Youth crime is running rampant in our state and police are very much aware of it. The problem is that these young offenders know that under a Labor government weak on crime they can get away with just a slap on the wrist. It was abundantly clear from our crime forum that the current youth justice system leaves much to be desired, both for the victims and for the youth offenders. At the forum we heard from Leisa Logan. Her team at Fight 4 Youth is an incredible organisation and I am extremely proud to have them in my electorate. Leisa has partnered with local schools to support suspended students, vulnerable youth and young offenders with the early intervention programs that she runs. She is not currently funded but her organisation should be because Fight 4 Youth is achieving what this state government should be achieving when it comes to youth crime and young offenders.

Our local police at the Coolangatta and Palm Beach police stations are doing absolutely everything they can to support our community, but without the appropriate laws and the resources they need they can only do so much. Our local police attended our crime forum last week and I take this opportunity to sincerely thank them for their time and for listening to the concerns of our community. I will always support our community and our local police and it is high time that the state government started doing the same, because the concerning increase in crime cannot be ignored by this government. Under Labor the Currumbin electorate has seen unlawful entry up by 51 per cent, assault up by 41 per cent, robbery up by 89 per cent and sexual offences up by a staggering 94 per cent. These statistics cannot be ignored and the Labor government must start listening to the community and must start doing more in terms of the youth justice system and its laws. Our community will not stand for its weak-on-crime approach any longer.