



Speech By  
**Laura Gerber**


**MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 June 2022

**MOTION**

**Youth Crime**

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (5.40 pm): 27,432—that is the number of offences committed by juveniles on the watch of this state Labor government. Recent figures from the Government Statistician’s Office show the alarming extent of juvenile crime on the Gold Coast, with minors making up more than half of all offenders responsible for house break-ins and stolen cars. In the last financial year 52 per cent of all offenders across the south-east responsible for house break-ins were juvenile offenders; 54 per cent of offenders involved in motor vehicle offences were juveniles—that is juveniles aged between 10 and 17. Those figures are up from last year. Just last week two teenagers aged 15 and 16 terrorised our community, taking police on a wild car chase across the Gold Coast in a stolen car. They hit several cars. They trashed police cars. This chaos is happening every week in our communities. Youth crime is out of control and the government is doing nothing to address it. This is not just happening on the Gold Coast. It is happening right across Queensland.

On Australia Day last year there was the tragedy that rocked the entire state: Matthew, Kate and baby Miles were heinously killed by a repeat juvenile offender. He was in a stolen car, he was drunk, he was high and he had a criminal history more than 12 pages long. Guess what? He was out on bail. Time and time again in this chamber we have heard stories of locals’ lives being torn apart by juvenile offenders. It is the revolving door on crime that this state Labor government has created and the only thing that changes is the family whose life is torn apart by the juvenile offender. The youth justice system is broken. As the shadow assistant minister for justice, as a former prosecutor and as a mum I know it. The police, trying to save these juveniles from committing more crimes, know it. Crime is running rampant throughout Queensland. The system is broken because there are no consequences for actions. At the heart of any good judicial system is consequences for action. Our laws must provide a deterrent for future offenders.

Twelve days ago a petition was launched calling on the Attorney-General to enact legislative change to curb juvenile crime, including breach of bail as an offence. Over 53,400 people have signed this petition. Instead of listening to the staggering 53,000 people who have signed the petition, including one of their own team, the Chief Government Whip, the member for Capalaba, who to his credit signed the petition calling for breach of bail as an offence—and if he truly meant what he signed he would stand with the LNP in supporting this motion—and doing what needs to be done and introducing breach of bail as an offence, this government has introduced failed policies like GPS trackers.

The GPS tracker policy measure has been running for almost a year now and guess how many juvenile offenders have been given a GPS tracker on the Gold Coast—take a guess, take a stab in the dark—a GPS tracker designed to prevent them from committing further crimes while out on bail? The number is zero. There are zero juvenile offenders with a GPS tracker. The key reason is that the juveniles do not want to wear it. A 16-year-old boy on the Gold Coast who a couple of months ago was accused of stealing a luxury Range Rover, which was later crashed by a 13-year-old, was out on bail

but not subject to a GPS tracker despite being eligible. I assume it is because he did not want to wear it. These kids know the system and they are simply telling the magistrate that they do not want to wear it.

We have recidivist juvenile offenders out on bail because of the revolving door that Labor has created. Their solution is ankle bracelets that no Gold Coast juvenile offenders wear. Labor has failed to get youth crime under control, Labor has failed to protect our community and Labor has failed to do the right thing by our children. We know it, the 54,000 people who signed the petition know it and the member for Capalaba knows it. Labor has watered down the Youth Justice Act to the point where it allows the same repeat offenders to commit crimes over and over again. Having breach of bail as an offence is just one step towards fixing the broken system. It will allow police to enforce bail conditions so that, if the teenager out on bail does not comply with his bail condition to be home by a certain time, police can intercept him, pick him up and prevent further crimes in the community, but they can also save that child. We need breach of bail introduced as an offence in the Youth Justice Act.