



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2022

**MOTION**

**Cairns, Youth Crime**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.14 pm): This is a very serious topic, and it is a topic this government takes very seriously. We are absolutely committed to ensuring that we do everything we can to increase community safety in our communities, because it is a right. It is a right for people to feel safe in their homes. It is a right for people to feel safe in their communities. That is why the government takes this matter so seriously. It is why the local members from the Far North take this matter seriously.

Can I say that you, Speaker, and the member for Barron River, the member for Cairns and the member for Cook are constant advocates for their communities on this issue because they take it seriously as well. They do not play political stunts on this issue. They take it seriously, and they are more regular advocates on this issue than those opposite. They are regular advocates for community safety in the Far North. It is because of their advocacy that this government is committing more resources to the Far North, not only boosting police resources—in fact, an extra 150 coming to the Far North region—but also investing in the resources and facilities that police need. Facilities in your electorate, Mr Speaker, like the new facility at Gordonvale and Moree; facilities like the ones in the member for Cairns' electorate, Cairns west, Cairns city and McLeod Street. These are things that show this government is not only committed to supporting the police but also doing everything we can to improve community safety.

Just a moment ago I mentioned the people who are strong advocates who are in regular contact with me on this issue like the members in the Far North, but there is some silence from those opposite. I have to reflect on a publication that I think the member for Thuringowa thinks is a very fine publication. In the *Townsville Bulletin* on 8 January last year—there is a nice little picture of the member for Burdekin there—he said, 'We're going to get our crime plan right. Give us six months to get our crime plan right.' That was 432 days, 61 weeks ago, 14 months ago. They do not take this issue seriously, because if they did they would honour KPI No. 1 from the member for Burdekin. He said, 'Give us six months and we'll give you a crime plan.' Well, the member for Burdekin and his colleagues do not take this seriously because they cannot even deliver the promised crime plan within the time allocated.

The only plan they had, which they took to the last election, would involve cutting police resources. We would see fewer police in Cairns and the Far North if those opposite had been elected than under Labor. They did not take a plan around new facilities for the police to the last election, so there would be fewer facilities. They did not take a plan around more equipment for our police to the last election. All they had was recycled policies and cuts. They keep recycling this concept from the former attorney-general around bringing back breach of bail. We heard the statistics from the Attorney-General. It had a 94 per cent failure rate. It actually led to young people receiving fewer penalties rather than more. Mr Speaker, I put a proposition to you. They say, 'Bring it back and youth crime will stop.' If it was the silver bullet, why did 94 per cent of young people reoffend? If it was the

silver bullet, wouldn't you think—given the nonsense they carry on with—that youth crime would have stopped the day after they introduced that law? It is nonsense. It is a political stunt. They are playing with people's concerns around community safety.

On the other hand, we do take this issue very, very seriously. It is why we are committing record amounts to the Queensland Police Service to boost their resources. It is why we are increasing resources for the police and why we are strengthening laws around bail for recidivist youth offenders. The feedback we are getting from people on the ground—the police, youth justice workers and those who observe court proceedings—shows that the tougher laws we have are leading to more young people in custody more often.

*(Time expired)*