



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 June 2022

**MOTION**

**Youth Crime**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.55 pm): I rise to oppose the opposition motion and support the minister's amended motion. I start by acknowledging the people who have been impacted by crime, some of them very tragically and some of whom are particularly connected to the debate tonight. Obviously, the impact of crime will have lifelong and tragic consequences for those people and I acknowledge that. I give them an assurance that this government will continue to do whatever it can to address criminal offending and to enhance community safety. That is a genuine assurance from the government. We will continue to take action. Wherever there is an evidence base and wherever the research supports it, we will continue to strengthen laws and invest in programs, initiatives and resources that enhance community safety. We do that genuinely, unlike those opposite who wish to play politics rather than genuinely contributing to the debate.

It has been 530 days or 17 months and 14 days or one year, five months and 14 days since the member for Burdekin said that the opposition would have a crime plan. I repeat: 530 days or 17 months and 14 days or one year, five months and 14 days since the member for Burdekin said that—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, do not use that as a prop.

**Mr RYAN:**—the LNP would have a crime plan. On 8 January last year, he said that the community could expect a crime plan from the LNP in the next six months, saying that it could not come any sooner and they were workshopping it and meeting with the community and had to get it right. We need to contribute genuinely to the work that is being done to enhance community safety rather than play politics on the issue. However, from those opposite we do not see a genuine contribution; they are just playing politics.

If it were true that the breach of bail offence that the LNP talks about is the silver bullet to community safety, when they had it why did 94 per cent of the young people caught by that offence reoffend? It was a 94 per cent failure rate. If it were the silver bullet, why did it fail 94 per cent of the time? I can put it this way: if it were the silver bullet, when they had that offence why did young people breach their bail? Or I can put it this way: if it were the silver bullet to community safety, why were there more unique youth offenders than now—if it were the silver bullet? The fact of the matter is that it was a failed policy that did not work and the Childrens Court said it did not actually provide any added punishment to young people who were breaching bail.

Let us also dispel this nonsense that the Queensland Police Service has no powers when it comes to a young person breaching their bail conditions. The Queensland Police Service has a very important power when it comes to a young person breaching their bail conditions: to arrest them. The Queensland Police Service can arrest a young person breaching their bail conditions. What do they do then? They can bring them back before the courts. Then what do they do? They put an argument to the

courts to say, 'Actually, Your Honour, this young person has breached their bail. Under the government's tough new laws, which say that those young people have a presumption against bail now, can you please remand them in custody?' Guess what is happening? Because we have the toughest youth justice bail laws in the nation, those young people are being remanded in custody. Better than any breach of bail offence, those young people are being remanded in custody. While they are in custody, their offending is disrupted.

This government has acted and will continue to act when it comes to community safety. We have the toughest youth bail laws in the nation. We have strong Police Service resourcing and good interventions from the youth justice department. We will continue to do everything in our power to protect the community from crime.