




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2022

MOTION

Youth Crime

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.04 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'notes' be omitted and the following inserted:

- (a) the record investment and action over successive years by the Palaszczuk government in community safety and youth justice measures;
- (b) the impact that crime, including youth crime, has on individuals, communities and businesses in Queensland;
- (c) the work of the dedicated Queensland frontline workers, including Queensland Police Service officers, youth detention workers, youth justice officers and Queensland Corrective Services officers in keeping our community safe;
- (d) the Queensland government will continue to implement evidenced-based initiatives to protect Queenslanders.'

I start by acknowledging the significant trauma and tragedy associated with crime in any state and any community. It is very human; it is very real; it is very personal. I am very sad about those examples of trauma and tragedy associated with criminal offending. Every member of this House is moved by those tragedies, and every member of this House is committed to ensuring that victims of crime are supported and perpetrators are held to account. This government is very serious about those approaches. We do support victims of crime, we do prioritise initiatives to support victims of crime and we do take a strong approach to ensuring perpetrators are held to account for their criminal offending. That is a commitment of this government and it is a commitment that we take very seriously.

I am still disappointed in those opposite. There was a commitment made by the member for Burdekin 21 months ago, or 91 weeks ago, or 640 days ago, that the LNP would have a plan when it comes to community safety. The member for Burdekin has failed to deliver. It is probably that failure to deliver which has reinforced the attitude of those opposite when it comes to their treatment of police officers and former police officers. We see the member for Lockyer who got sacked and moved up the back, we see the member for Ninderry who got sacked from the shadow portfolio, and now we see the member for Burdekin has been sacked from moving the motion on law and order.

This is a very serious issue that the government takes seriously and that we act on. We have strengthened laws in this state. Our youth bail laws are among the strongest in the nation. We have increased resourcing for intervention programs and youth justice rehabilitation programs, and we have increased resourcing for the Queensland Police Service. Those increases in resources, particularly for the Queensland Police Service, have allowed for additional activity to be done to promote community safety.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The members for McConnel and Theodore will cease their quarrelling across the chamber.

Mr RYAN: For instance, under our five-point youth justice plan, police have conducted over 20,000 bail compliance checks and police have reviewed over—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Theodore and member for McConnel, you are both warned. I asked you to cease your quarrelling and you continued.

Mr RYAN: Police have reviewed over 5,000 bail decisions, co-responder teams have had over 36,000 engagements and we have brought more than 3,000 offenders before the court. There is always a contrast. Those opposite have no plan, notwithstanding the promise of 640 days ago to have a plan. They also have a track record of cutting. We invest; they cut. The Queensland Police Service strategic review found that when the LNP were in government they cut 110 senior police and 500 police personnel positions, but they also cut monitoring for paedophiles. Do members remember when they let 1,700 paedophiles off the hook? They turned the switch off on the monitoring.

It also happened as recently as the last election. The plan they took to the last election would mean we would have had fewer police in our state if they had been elected. For instance, in the north coast region, which includes Caloundra and Hervey Bay, there would be 150 fewer police under the LNP if they had been elected; in the far northern region, which includes Cairns, there would be 90 fewer police; in the northern region, which includes Townsville, there would be another 90 fewer police; in the Gold Coast and south-eastern region, there would be 70 fewer police; and in the southern region, which includes Toowoomba, there would be 150 fewer police.

(Time expired)