



Speech By  
**Patrick Weir**


**MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE**

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Record of Proceedings, 31 March 2022

## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

### **Condamine Electorate, Crime; Floods**

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.24 pm): There is a constant stream of complaints and stories in every corner of the Condamine electorate of residents being victims of crime or someone close to them experiencing a criminal offence. In the past six months we have been contacted by people from Oakey, Kingsthorpe, Drayton, Wyreema, Cambooya, Crows Nest, Pittsworth and Westbrook with their accounts of break-ins, cars being stolen and property destruction.

The local police are doing the best they can to catch the perpetrators—many of whom are juvenile offenders; kids, some not even in their teens—breaking into homes, terrifying residents and wreaking havoc on people's property. Most of these people have been happy with the police officers who have responded and dealt with their cases. They understand that they can only do so much. They catch the criminals only to see them walk out the door shortly afterwards because of this weak-on-crime government. Cars are stolen and quite often burnt and property stolen or damaged and the owners are left to clean up with no responsibility on the offender.

I recently met with a lady near Kingsthorpe. Their home had been broken into and absolutely trashed—smashed windows, every cupboard and drawer upended, their vehicle stolen with the offenders driving straight through the closed roller door of their garage causing massive damage. The offenders turned up in a stolen vehicle. These residents had what they thought were secure locks on windows and doors. They had security cameras installed. The offenders were caught on camera and subsequently appeared in court in February, with one being immediately released on bail. How can that be acceptable?

This lady is now too frightened to stay in her own house alone thanks to this government's complete fail on punishing offenders. The Kingsthorpe community has now sought the services of a private neighbourhood patrol to offer security checks on properties from 7 pm to 6 am in response to the record crime in the area and the fear the community have for the protection of their property. I have previously asked the minister questions about extra police officers and resources in the Condamine electorate and his answer is always the same—crime is down in the Darling Downs. I would like the minister to come and explain that to the residents of Condamine.

I cannot finish today without speaking about the recent flooding in the Condamine electorate. I offer my condolences to the families of the two men who lost their lives in the recent flooding. One was a visitor from New South Wales. The other was Craig Cattell who is part of a well-known and widely respected family in Pittsworth. I, as well as the entire community of Pittsworth and district, offer my condolences and sympathy to the families.