



Speech By  
**Ray Stevens**


**MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 June 2022

## ADJOURNMENT

### Mermaid Beach Electorate, Youth Crime

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (7.19 pm): Again I rise in this House to highlight the problem of young juvenile offenders attacking law-abiding community members in my electorate of Mermaid Beach by wantonly and brazenly stealing cars and breaking and entering homes to steal car keys to take high-value cars for a joyride. The Palaszczuk Labor government is fairly and squarely to blame for weak and crime-encouraging laws around these juvie offenders, with its left-wing, ideologist powerbrokers providing no deterrent for these recidivist offenders. One does not have to be Einstein to work out that if there is no penalty for this serious misbehaviour these recidivist juvie offenders will keep doing the same crime over and over.

How would Premier Palaszczuk feel if someone in her family was run down and killed by a career criminal kid, like the Field and Leadbetter families? That family has a lifetime sentence while the career criminal kid is back on the streets in five years. I do not care if this criminal teen had a difficult upbringing, has a problem with drugs or whatever excuses his lawyer will dig up to mitigate his sentence. These juvenile criminals are criminals and they need to be taken out of society for our community's sake and also for their own sake before they kill themselves or take other innocent victims with them. I have one community in Avanti Street that has repeated and constant attacks on their property, yet the police are no closer to stopping this regular behaviour by juvenile offenders. One juvenile was caught red-handed by residents and I am fearful of a vigilante type outcome if this nonstop invasion of car stealing continues.

The very simple answer is a change in the Labor government's laws on youth justice to remove repeat offenders from our communities. No amount of mollycoddling, sweet talking or ego-stroking solutions will change the repeat behaviours of these bad egg juveniles and it is incumbent on responsible and community serving governments to fix the problem. The longer this obvious community problem of youth offenders goes on, the bigger the problem will get. These hardened, bad attitude young criminals infect other young vulnerable minds with their corrupt and criminal behaviour. I know my Labor members of parliament from Townsville have a large dose of this unacceptable behaviour from youth criminals and I call upon them to make this problem a front-and-centre issue in their Labor caucus and for this Labor government to act in the interests of communities across Queensland.

The police are doing the best they can, given the inappropriate laws for repeat juvenile offenders they have to act under. Give them the relief and capacity they require to address this serious and ongoing problem to stop the greater public blaming the police for inaction on the problem. It is not their fault.