



Speech By  
**Ros Bates**


**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2022

**MOTION**

**Hervey Bay, Youth Crime**

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.50 pm): The hallmark of a government losing its grip on power is a government which is losing control of basic services. Here in Queensland in those who occupy the seats opposite we have a case in point. They are so obsessed with how things look, not with how they really are. Those opposite are so mired in hubris, sneakiness and arrogance, so shackled by paralysis and incompetence, and so riddled by integrity woes that they just do not govern Queensland anymore. Those opposite govern for themselves.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Ms BATES:** The member for Miller should know how to wear a mask. You do not wear it like a chaff bag.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Comments will come through the chair.

**Ms BATES:** Those opposite govern for themselves. Those opposite govern for their mates. Those opposite do not govern for you, the people of Queensland. That is the current state of play here in Queensland. It has been felt up and down this great state or ours and the good people of Hervey Bay are not immune to it. They feel every bit of it because basic services in Hervey Bay are broken—services that Queenslanders expect the state government to deliver, like law and order and health.

Make no mistake, it is not the fault of the police on the beat or the doctors and nurses in the hospital. They are doing all they can with what they have got. It is those opposite who are hopelessly letting them down. I want to thank the member for Burdekin for moving this motion—for standing up for the people of Hervey Bay. I want to thank him for giving them a voice—a voice to tell the truth about what is going on here in this place.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The members for Miller and Chatsworth will cease their quarrelling across the chamber.

**Ms BATES:** If the member for Burdekin does not do this, if my colleagues in the opposition and I do not do this, then who will? Sadly, not the current member for Hervey Bay. If he were honest, he could level with his colleagues. He could tell them and this chamber that state government-run services in Hervey Bay are in dire trouble. The member would talk about repeat young offenders smashing shopfront windows to raid stores and collect their loot. The member would talk about the break and enters, with people's homes being turned upside down and inside out—so too their lives. The member would also talk about the health system in Hervey Bay and the dire state it is in because of this government's underinvestment in the region for year after year after year.

At the Hervey Bay Hospital, the second storey of the ED block has been an empty pigeon coop for years. To hide it, the HHS put up curtains when they realised you could see into the empty ward at night time. The member for Hervey Bay is preaching to me about health; he reminds me of a little boil that needs to be lanced.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock.

**Mr TANTARI:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at that.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hervey Bay, if you are taking offence, you need to ask for it to be withdrawn. Before you get to that, that language was unparliamentary and I ask the member for Mudgeeraba to withdraw.

**Ms BATES:** I withdraw. Things are at crisis point. I have spoken with police and paramedics at length about it. I have spoken with them in Hervey Bay and right across Queensland. They tell a story of night after night not being able to do their jobs properly because the youth justice system is a joke and our health system is buckling under immense strain.

Picture this: both the ambulance and the police are called to a mental health job. It is pretty urgent. The police arrive on the scene but the ambos still are not there. Why not? Because they are ramped at Hervey Bay Hospital. The police are left to deal with the job until the QAS can get to their own job. While the police are waiting, there is a call over the radio—a known youth offender has broken into a local business but the police are stuck. They cannot leave the mental health patient, so what happens? Are the police left to transfer the mental health patient to hospital? Do they wait? Do they leave? It is an unthinkable situation, but it is unfolding across Queensland every night in places like Hervey Bay. The paramedics want to offload their patient at the hospital so they can get back on the road. The nurses and the doctors at the hospital just want a bed for the patient in the overcrowded ED. And the police want to do the job they signed up to do—to uphold law and order in this state. It is a vicious cycle and I feel for every one of them. They are giving it their all, but they are doing their job with one hand tied behind their back.

Let me rattle off some figures behind this horrible mess. At Hervey Bay, ramping is at 45 per cent. That is uncharted waters. In the ED at Hervey Bay, 47 per cent of patients are not seen on time. That is the fourth worst in the state. There is a problem. To the member for Hervey Bay, you have a problem. To the Minister for Health, you have a problem. To those opposite, you have a problem and you must start listening to the cries for help which are coming from communities like Hervey Bay. The government are losing control of basic health services.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Ms BATES:** Put your mask on. The government are losing control of basic services like health and basic services like law and order. It is happening because they are focused on everything but delivering for Queenslanders and delivering for the residents of Hervey Bay.