



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 June 2022

**MOTION**

**Youth Crime**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.15 pm): I rise to support the amendment moved by the Minister for Youth Justice. The Palaszczuk government is absolutely committed to keeping the community safe and ensuring that young offenders are held to account. That is why I recently signed a notice of appeal regarding the sentence handed down to the young offender who killed Kate Leadbetter, Matthew Field and their unborn son.

Unlike those opposite, we on this side of the House take an evidence based approach to addressing youth justice and we take advice from the experts. The government, since this case, has taken swift action to strengthen youth justice bail laws, including a presumption against bail for youth offenders charged with certain additional offences in specified circumstances, ensuring the court takes into account the commission of further offences while on bail as an aggravating factor during sentencing which will lead to tougher sentences than the breach of bail offence that those opposite have been advocating for. Amending the principles of the Youth Justice Act will make it clear that the community needs to be protected from recidivist offenders. We have made these changes because we understand that the community wants to feel safe. We have listened and we are acting.

It is the height of hypocrisy for the LNP to come into this place and talk about failures when it comes to youth justice. Let's for a moment remember their record on youth justice. What did the member for Kawana, Queensland's worst attorney-general, introduce? He introduced the boot camps.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Your comments will come through the chair, please, Attorney.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Not only did the boot camps do nothing to reduce crime; they were an enormous waste of taxpayer money.

**Mr Boothman** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Theodore, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** The final cost for these boot camps, in fact, was eight times more than what the then attorney-general promised. Then there was the Auditor-General, who criticised the cost blowout and determined that there was no documentation to support why these contracts were awarded to certain providers. I think I might know the answer: the contract was awarded to a known LNP donor, awarded against the advice of a panel even after the panel made it clear that this provider was not up to scratch. The member for Kawana's response was, 'Oh, in my view they were suitable.' I do not know how much boot camp experience you get as a Sunny Coast conveyancer, but I certainly was not aware that the member was an expert. If the millions in wasted money going to LNP mates was not bad enough, how much taxpayer money did he spend on the helicopter ride to get to the boot camps? He is like Bronwyn Bishop but with more hair gel!

It would be one thing if they had only forgotten about the boot camps and what a failure they were, but, as we have heard from the Minister for Youth Justice, they continue to refuse to learn the lessons of their past policy failures. Breach of bail did nothing to reduce crime. Only 185 juvenile offenders were convicted of the offence. Of these, 90 per cent reoffended within 12 months and 94 per cent reoffended within two years.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, you are warned.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** What is even more embarrassing is that the Childrens Court of Queensland held that the offence of committing an offence whilst on bail was flawed: it did not enable a juvenile to be punished because, if the young person had already been convicted of an offence, it breached section 16 of the Criminal Code, double punishment. What did the breach of bail offence do, guys, the one you keep saying we need to do? It did not enable them to be punished—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Comments will come through the chair, Attorney.

**Ms FENTIMAN:**—and they all reoffended. Oh my God! Seriously, even the Childrens Court has said this was the most flawed offence they have seen. These young offenders could not be punished, but do you know what we have done? We have stopped them getting bail. We have reversed the presumption of bail. Do you know what else we have done? We have made a breach of bail an aggravating factor on sentencing. That leads to tougher sentences. Under your breach of bail they all reoffended. They did not get any extra penalties. That is what you are advocating for. As the youth justice minister said—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Attorney, your comments will come through the chair, please.

**Ms FENTIMAN:**—you are soft. You are completely soft.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Attorney, your comments will come through the chair.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Those opposite in the LNP cannot lecture this government about youth justice. Dodgy boot camps, helicopter rides, an offence that absolutely did not work—the track record of the LNP is a disgrace.