




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2022

MOTION

Cairns, Youth Crime

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (5.51 pm): This Palaszczuk government is lazy when it comes to the causes of crime, it is lazy when it comes to cracking down on crime and it is lazy in dealing with offenders. This is a government that is full of platitudes and excuses and low on action, and the people of Cairns know it. Because the three members named in this motion tonight are not doing anything about it, someone else has to step up and raise the issue, and that has been the member for Burdekin and the LNP.

When I listened to the litany of stories put forward by those on the opposite side in relation to matters relating to crime, I hark back to a brighter time between 2012 and 2015, because I remember when we cracked down on the bikies. I remember when people could walk the streets safely at night and not worry about getting bludgeoned by a bikie or the break-outs on the Gold Coast or the sale of methamphetamine and ice no matter where you were in the state. I remember the thousand extra police we delivered to the people of Queensland. I remember the dedicated police helicopter that we made available that Labor opposed for over a decade on the basis of the advice of the police commissioner at the time. I remember the digital radio network so police would have secure communications when they wanted to talk to each other. I remember we had police officers' backs and the police knew it. They knew if they went out and did their job they would not be second-guessed by a bunch of left-wing softies more worried about what their mates would be saying at trade union headquarters than the public were feeling when they got news of what was going on.

I remember the failed bail watch houses of this government—four of them. There was going to be a fifth in South Brisbane, but for some reason it did not go ahead. I cannot remember why! I wonder who the member was. I remember the \$30.8 million that was wasted on those schemes and I remember the half a million dollars that was spent getting three consultants to tell those opposite it did not work. I remember the then minister and now minister saying, 'Oh no. They were a success. They didn't fail. We're just not going to continue with them,' in one of the greatest efforts of doublespeak I have ever heard.

I also remember the four changes in youth bail laws that we have had over the last 30 months. I remember the promises about GPS trackers and the briefings. There were going to be up to 100 of them in the first 12 months. How many have we had? Three, because those opposite worked out they did not have the tracking system.

Now we have the promise for North Queensland of not dedicated helicopters for Far North Queensland that we have been promising—I promised in 2017 a dedicated police helicopter—but drones. Fair enough. That seems like good technology. People like drones. How far do those drones go? Five kilometres, line of sight, so pretty handy when you are chasing someone in a car and they are driving through the night! That will work well: 'Hang on a second. No, they've just gone over the horizon. We'll get out of there.' That is what they are delivering.

I heard the member for Cairns say, 'Very rarely do I hear myself being described as silent.' Well, we know why he very rarely hears himself being described as anything; it is because he does not listen to his constituents in that he wants them to send him a letter. Instead of seeing them, he would rather them send him an email. He should be listening to his constituents. He should be doing what they asked him to do, and that is representing their interests down here in Brisbane about law and order.

We heard the member for Cook speak about flying into Mareeba for a cheap photo op. If anyone should be speaking about cheap photo ops and flying into it, it should be the member for Cook, who does not even have an electorate office in her own electorate and flies in and out of her own electorate for cheap photo ops.

Then we heard the member for Barron River attempting to defend the indefensible and his failures to deliver. He conveniently forgets the member for Cairns who preceded the current member for Cairns who disappeared off the radar screen extraordinarily rapidly with a few parting shots about the former member for South Brisbane as well—let us not forget that—and the member for Cook preceding the current member for Cook who did not last, if memory serves me, more than three months in this place in relation to it. Is it no wonder that those opposite are silent and weak on crime?