



Speech By  
**Trevor Watts**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 May 2022

## ADJOURNMENT

### Toowoomba North Electorate, Law and Order

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.13 pm): Imagine locking your house and yet being woken to someone kicking in your door. Imagine locking your house only to find someone standing over you while you are asleep. Imagine locking your car only to watch it being driven out of your driveway. Imagine going to a shopping centre only to be assaulted and have your car stolen. Imagine feeling unsafe in your own home. Imagine spending thousands of dollars on home security to feel protected and then imagine watching the person who caused you that mental and financial heartache being released on bail just one day after you provided all of the evidence.

What needs to happen for these acts to not be what my community in Toowoomba is facing but for them to be just figments of my imagination? What needs to change is the Palaszczuk Labor government needs to get serious about what is going on in Toowoomba. We need to take seriously the complaints we have had from our community and the pain that this is causing, the terror it is causing to some of our aged people.

The things that need to change are really very simple. Whether it be the Premier, the Attorney-General, the police minister, the youth justice minister, they all have a role to play. I urge the police minister to send the commissioner to Toowoomba. Let's get serious with curbing what is going on. It is absolutely disgusting. The increasing crime we have seen in Toowoomba has been absolutely disgusting. We have been calling for sensible changes for a long time now.

What needs to change? There needs to be a legislative change in this place to bring back the breach of bail offence. Just this week recorded in my newspaper is a story of a teen who was arrested and within 24 hours, despite the objections of the police prosecutor, despite the objections of Child Safety and everybody else, that teen was back on the street simply because the legislation is not tough enough. I thank Michael Nolan for reporting on it.

There is another story of an old lady being attacked in the shopping centre and having her car stolen. We need legislative change—that is critical—but we also need more police resources. We do not just need a sugar hit and different police resources moved around. Whilst that might deal with the immediate problem—and I would welcome it to deal with the immediate problem—the long-term solution is more police resources on the ground, so legislative change and more police resources. The most important part is we need early intervention. We need community support programs. We need to stop this before it starts because my community is living in fear.

A petition is being launched today that calls for these changes. I insist on these ministers taking the issue seriously and getting on with fixing the crime problem in Toowoomba, whatever it takes.