




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 10 May 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Youth Crime

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (7.07 pm): There is a youth crime crisis gripping this state. Like every Queenslander, I have been deeply saddened and sickened to hear of death after death, week after week, caused by young criminals in stolen vehicles or invading everyday Queenslanders' homes. My heart goes out to those families who have lost loved ones and those victims of crime. While we in Glass House have not experienced such tragic consequences yet, youth crime is still having a devastating impact. Marie from Bellmere recently emailed me the following—

Please someone has to get a backbone ... for almost 20 years I worked at a Hotel and would knock off at 11pm and walk out to my car by myself and never feel in any danger. But now I feel unsafe just shopping in Caboolture or Morayfield in the day time.

Shaeleigh from Beerwah shared—

Just emailing you today in regards to some things happening around Beerwah town centre and at a loss of what to do ... there is a group of about 10 up to 20 kids most days that hang around Beerwah shopping centre causing trouble and fights ... My family and daughter have been personally threatened. A young 14 year old girl who has been bullied by them for the past two years was bashed yesterday by these girls and ended up in hospital. Everyone is feeling very, very unsafe going into town ... They threaten innocent people ... It's intimidating it is scary not only for us but a lot of the town people.

Kelly, also from Beerwah, wrote to me with the same details but concluded by saying that she was—

... very concerned and can't stand by anymore but do not know what to do. I would love to take Beerwah back from these kids and ... everyone feel safe :(please help me.

For others, the increased crime is being displayed through an increase in hooning. Dorothy from Rocksberg has reported it on Caboolture River Road, particularly at the intersection with Old North Road. Lisa from Glass House Mountains and Kirsty from Beerburrum have reported it at the corner of Beerburrum Woodford Road and Old Gympie Road and at the intersection of Beerburrum Road and Beerburrum Woodford Road. Hoons have damaged the roads, covered the white safety lines, graffitied signage and left black rubber waste all over the scene.

In each case—Marie, Shaeleigh, Kelly, Dorothy, Lisa and Kirsty—I have raised the matter with the relevant local police and encouraged the hoon reports to be made online, as requested by the QPS. I know my local police are doing what they can with what they have. This increased crime is not their fault. As the Premier's own briefing note has shown, there are fewer police now on the Sunshine Coast than there were two years ago, despite record population growth. The fault lies firmly at the feet of the Palaszczuk Labor government. They are bereft of solutions. So, in the same way they adopted the LNP policy of breach of bail word for word, how about they adopt our other policies: consequences for actions, putting victims ahead of criminals; unshackling the judiciary by removing detention as a last resort; and gold standard early intervention and prevention services. Queenslanders have had enough. The Premier must listen to victims and start keeping Queenslanders safe.