




Speech By  
**Dale Last**

**MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN**

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Record of Proceedings, 29 March 2023

**MOTION: CAIRNS, TOWNSVILLE AND REDLANDS ELECTORATES**

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (5.43 pm): I rise to support the motion put forward by the member for Kawana. Can I say at the outset that I will back these six women on this side of the House any day of the week, and I cannot wait until October next year when they are joined by Rebecca Young, Natalie Marr and Yolonde Entsch. This place needs a voice, this place needs some representation, and those communities are not getting that at the moment from the members for Thuringowa and Cairns.

The member for Cairns stood in here a few minutes ago and said that we need to scratch below the surface. Well, I scratched below the surface and what did I find? Let me share this with the House. When the member for Cairns came into this place, there were 363 unlawful use of a motor vehicle charges to the year ending February 2019. What is it now? It was 3,428 to the year ending February 2023. That is an increase of more than nine times, and he has the audacity to come in here and try and tell us that he is representing his community and that he has crime under control.

What did he say? Let us have a look at a few of his quotes. In October 2018 when he was talking about crime he said, 'Tackling the issues required not only immediate action but also dedication, innovation and cooperation.' We know there was no action. The fact he has only talked about crime on six occasions in five years says it all. It is not just the member for Cairns; it is the member for Thuringowa as well. He stood in this place—and you could quote him until the cows come home—and who could forget it when he said, 'The Palaszczuk government has a real plan to tackle the issues of youth crime in Townsville.' How did that go? How did the crime in Townsville go?

Let me share this with the House. In his first year there were 268 unlawful use of a motor vehicle charges, and it was 800 to the year ending February 2023. That is how successful he has been. He took to Facebook four months after he said they had a plan and said, 'I'm not putting up with this anymore.' He went on to say, 'I am not asking for help anymore. I am demanding it.' I wonder where he went to demand it. Where did he go to demand the action that was required for that community? When you drive around Thuringowa you are dodging the burnt-out stolen vehicles, and that community is fed up. They have had an absolute gutful of the crime—the unlawful entry and the unlawful use of motor vehicles—and they want action. They are no longer prepared to just sit back and wear this rubbish from the member for Thuringowa.

The member for Cairns should join him in hanging his head in shame. We know that he is heading out. We know at the next election that he is running for the hills. He is cutting it and he is heading for the mayor's job in Cairns. That is where he is heading.

**Opposition members:** Your Worship!

**Mr LAST:** Your Worship; that is exactly right. That is why we have selected two outstanding candidates for Cairns and Thuringowa. They have impeccable credentials and they are local community champions. They are candidates who are out there working as we speak. They are at the markets and

doorknocking every day of the week. They have got their finger on the pulse because they are ringing us and telling us what is going on. Our leader, the member for Broadwater, will back me up when I talk about the level of crime in those communities and the fact that they need some help.

What those communities need is a tiger, but what have they got? They have got a couple of mice. I want to say this to the chamber. They had better be looking over their shoulder because the roar is coming, the hot breath is on the back of the neck. When they get in here, this chamber will see that we have two tigers, two candidates who are prepared to stand up in here for their communities. They will back their communities. I will guarantee it because I know them. That is exactly what we want. That is what we stand for as members of the LNP. We will back our communities and get in there and fight.