




Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

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ADJOURNMENT

Rural Fire Service; Ninderry Electorate, Crime

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.25 pm): I want to endorse those comments made by the member for Redlands about the rural fire brigade and Yellow Ribbon Day. My electorate—particularly the communities of Peregian Springs and Peregian—saw firsthand back in 2019 the amazing work they did with the fires we had there.

While speaking about Peregian Springs, I want to acknowledge over 50 members of that community who turned up last Wednesday night to a community forum I hosted at the Peregian Springs State School in relation to crime. Unfortunately, Peregian Springs, like a lot of other communities across Queensland, has seen an alarming spike not only in the perception of crime, which is concerning because we want people to feel safe in their homes and on their streets, but also with the reality of crime because crime is on the increase in Peregian Springs and elsewhere. I have some statistics to support that. In the Coolum police division alone since 2015 assaults are up 116 per cent and unlawful use of a motor vehicle is up 175 per cent. Sunshine Coast police have recently reported that across the whole Sunshine Coast unlawful use of a motor vehicle is up 110 per cent in the last three months alone.

A few weeks ago, I saw on our social media pages—which members can attest to have now become quasi Neighbourhood Watch pages—some concern in the area of Peregian Springs about a spike in crime. After that some community members, particularly Vickii Cotter, came to see me and asked what I could do to help the local community and our police to combat crime. Under their suggestion, I was more than happy to find a location and facilitate a crime forum. I want to acknowledge the community that turned up and voiced their concerns. Vickii Cotter's main concern when this crime spree was happening was that she could not get through to Policelink to report information she had.

Our local police attended, including some senior police. Our Neighbourhood Watch, Crime Stoppers and community policing partners also attended and passed on some valuable information to the community. Although the police did not allude to this on the night, I am concerned that our police on the Sunshine Coast and across the state are doing more with less and with weaker laws at the moment. Ten years ago when I got transferred to the Sunshine Coast there were 24 police officers at Coolum working out of a demountable. Now we have a new police station but the other week there were only nine police. I understand there are 10 people on the roster at Coolum currently. In that time, the population has increased and they are working with weaker laws. Similarly in my electorate the town of Bli Bli has doubled in population over the last 10 years. It is covered by Nambour police division. Ten years ago there were 30 police officers at Nambour station plus one OIC. Now on the roster there are 24 and they are dealing with a population that has doubled in size and weaker laws.

I want to acknowledge the police who turned up and our community policing partners who gave some great advice to the community about what the community can do to better protect their homes and their families. We need to give our police back the laws they need and more resources to do their job.