




Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2023

MOTION

Sunshine Coast

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (5.36 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the member for Maroochydore. It is interesting to follow the member for Caloundra, who talked about statistics. I would like to know where he got those statistics from, because one thing the people of Caloundra and the Sunshine Coast do know is that there are more victims now than ever before. I would like to see this member go to his community and talk to victims about how crime is down. We know that under this government, with this member for Caloundra and the member for Nicklin, in the past 12 months you were more likely to have your car stolen in Caloundra, Nicklin and across the Sunshine Coast, with unlawful use of a motor vehicle up 29 per cent. You were more likely over the last 12 months in Nicklin and Caloundra to have had your house broken into, with unlawful entry up over 25 per cent. You were more likely to have your property stolen in Caloundra or Nicklin than you were 12 months ago, with theft up 19 per cent.

The member for Caloundra wants to talk about statistics per capita. What is down is the number of police officers on the Sunshine Coast. We know that Nambour—I will be interested to hear what the member for Nicklin has to say about this shortly—has a full strength of 31 police officers, and it has for an awfully long time. Today and for some time now they have been operating at 24 police officers—a decrease of about 25 per cent, equivalent to the 25 per cent increase in crime across the Sunshine Coast.

Kenilworth has its own police station and has had a full-time police presence for some time now, but how many police officers are at Kenilworth at the moment? Zero. There are zero police at Kenilworth. It has no police presence. The big issue that I want to explain to members in this place—it is not just that the people of Kenilworth, Imbil and the surrounding suburbs in the seat of Nicklin do not have a full-time police presence—is that it is being covered by the police and staff at Nambour, which we already know is down 25 per cent. A quick Google Maps search shows that it is a 35-minute drive from Nambour to Kenilworth. It takes over an hour for Nambour police to get there and back. We know from their roster that they are struggling to man even one patrol crew every shift, but they are also covering Kenilworth.

What is the member for Nicklin doing about it? I want to know what he is doing about it. I can tell members what he is doing about it. He has a petition. He has a petition calling to restore a permanent police presence at Kenilworth—a member of this government. We heard from the police minister lauding the results and the work they are doing locally, but the local member has a petition. He has asked the community to support his calls to restore a permanent police presence at Kenilworth. That is what he is doing. They are the true statistics.

We know on this side that crime is out of control on the Sunshine Coast as it is across Queensland. We also know that one of the biggest drivers of cost of living on the Sunshine Coast and in Queensland is crime. Not only do mums and dads, families and family businesses have to pay their insurance premiums, which are going up; they also have to pay for broken windows to be replaced, for the gap between what their insurance will pay—

Mr Boothman: The excess.

Mr PURDIE: Yes, the excess. They also have to pay for CCTV cameras. I was alarmed recently when in October I went to the Nambour RSL where the Sundale Community Foundation—a great foundation that raises money and gives it back to the community—handed out \$68,000 in grants and one of those grants was to Meals on Wheels. Every member of this House knows the amazing work Meals on Wheels do with the little that they have. On a shoestring budget they feed the elderly and the most vulnerable in my electorate.

Mr Krause: What was the grant?

Mr PURDIE: The amount of \$2,200 from the Sundale Community Foundation was given to Meals on Wheels. When Meals on Wheels came up to accept the cheque, they said, 'We put in for this grant because we need better security. We need CCTV footage because we are becoming victims of crime and our staff are fearful when they leave work.' What have we come to in Nicklin on the Sunshine Coast—one of the most beautiful places in Australia—when the volunteers at Meals on Wheels who should be putting in for a grant for more money to feed the vulnerable and the elderly in the community are putting in for a grant to improve security—\$2,200.

An opposition member: Shameful.

Mr PURDIE: It is a shame. I wanted to talk about the motorway and some other things, but I want to finish on a positive note. This might be the last chance I get to stand on my feet this year in parliament. I want to give the people of Nicklin, Caloundra and the Sunshine Coast hope, because in less than a year they can exercise their democratic right to ensure that they get back Marty Hunt and show Labor the door in 2024!