




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 14 March 2023

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.33 pm): For years Queenslanders have told their stories about youth crime and for years we have listened. We have listened to mums tell stories about having to try to ask their child to go to bed when they know that in the period leading up to that someone had been in their sacred space. We have listened to stories from tradies who have told what it is like to go to the front yard of their property and find the vehicle they need to make a living is not there because it was stolen overnight, and we have heard about the complications that come from not being able to earn a living, the rigmarole with insurance, the rising premiums and the inability to get to their next job. We have listened to small business owners—some of whom have been destroyed six times in two months—and the costs that come with having to have the disconnection, with their casual staff member not getting a shift and then they cannot provide for their family, and the rising cost of insurance to try to keep their business afloat. We have listened to parents and grandparents who have told us what losing a loved one is like.

I have been at events and listened to Queenslanders have an argument about whether the smart move is to hide their keys under their pillow so that maybe the person who is going to break into their home does not find them and moves on or whether the smart move is to leave their keys at the front door so the offender does not walk past their child who is asleep in the front room. They are the conversations that Queenslanders are having right now.

When we have listened to the government, the only thing we have heard is either it is a complex issue or it is happening everywhere. That is cold comfort to the person who had it happen to them, and there are thousands of them. It is happening in numbers that we have never seen before and there is a level of anger that we have never seen before. They want action and they deserve it. This government have repeatedly stonewalled every suggestion that has been put forward—every suggestion.

Then the rhetoric changed on Boxing Day—not because their heart was in it but because the community stood up as one and said ‘Enough.’ Only then did we hear anything about the need for stronger laws. However, it turns out this was not about the government doing what the community wanted; it was about relieving a political issue, and what we read in the greens proves that. Not since the asset sales of over a decade ago has a cabinet torn itself apart on an issue as much as it has on this one—

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Pine Rivers!

Mr CRISAFULLI:—to the point that policy is being done on a trade-off.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Pine Rivers is warned under the standing orders.

Mr CRISAFULLI: ‘We’ll give you breach of bail if you’re willing to give us weakening drug laws.’ That is what governing in this state has got to. It is transactional governance.

The proof is on breach of bail. For two years, a conga line of ministers lined up to say that breach of bail would never be on their agenda—the police minister, the Attorney, the Deputy Premier, the Premier. The one I feel most sorry for is the tourism minister who was wound up and set up the day before they caved like cannon fodder. Before the deal was done with the trade-off in cabinet, he got sent out like cannon fodder. The police minister said that the suggestion our shadow police minister put forward would not work, but then it was copied word for word. We were talking about breach of bail and we were talking about amending the Bail Act, which is word for word what the government is finally doing.

It does not change the fact that when we look in the greens we see that this is not an issue that the government believe in in their hearts; this is an issue the government want to somehow limp across the line with and convince Queenslanders they have listened. I am going to ask: has the Premier listened to the Queensland victims like we have? Has the Premier listened to the children who are scared to sleep, the tradies who cannot earn a living because their cars are gone, the husbands who have lost wives, the grandparents who have buried unborn children? We have listened to them. We have listened to all of them, and we have given them a voice and we are going to continue to give them a voice.

At the centrepiece of this legislation is this so-called lifting of maximum penalties. There is nothing that is changing in here at all. The question is pretty simple. What did the Premier mean when she said on 27 December, 'Violent juvenile car thieves will face 14 years jail'? That is not the case. That is just not the case. The Premier went missing in January when Queenslanders needed her and she has missed the mark with these laws. They are not even the laws that she promised Queenslanders. They are not—read them! There is a disconnect in what the government is saying in its media release and then what it is trying to dog whistle to other groups and what is in this legislation.

Here are some questions. How many repeat offenders will be sentenced to 10 years jail for car theft? How many will be sentenced to 14 years for offences committed at night? How many? How many engine immobilisers will be fitted by this time next year? How many young offenders aged between 15 and 16 years will be fitted with GPS trackers, because the legislation looks very similar to the one that has only delivered a handful so far? When will the two new youth detention centres open? When will kids no longer spend time in watch houses for weeks on end? When will we know the government's plan to overhaul early intervention? There are some questions that the Premier could outline in her contribution. I look forward to the Premier's contribution in this regard.

I am going to say one thing really clearly: the opposition is going to continue to fight for a balance when it comes to fixing the youth crime epidemic gripping this state. It looks like this: consequences for action, unshackling the judiciary and removing detention as a last resort, and gold standard early intervention. Right now Queenslanders are being failed at all ends of the Youth Justice Act. The kids who are holding a knife at someone's door and who are ramming police are being failed with the weak laws. But so, too, we are failing the pipeline of future crims by not getting in early and doing the proper gold standard early intervention that they deserve.

When the Premier talks about millions of dollars and the government—

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Member for Thuringowa, you have had a good run. You are now warned under the standing orders.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I can assure you that 10 minutes is a special time. I will not be taking interjections from the member for Thuringowa, I can assure you, because the member for Thuringowa—

Mr Harper: I must be getting under your—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Thuringowa, I am sure I just heard an interjection from you. You can leave the chamber for an hour. Sorry, hang on: member are you taking the blame for that?

Mr SULLIVAN: Yes.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take your word for it for the minute. Leader of the Opposition, you have the call. I am watching.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hold on. Hold fire. Member for Thuringowa, did you make an interjection then?

Mr HARPER: No.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe the member for Thuringowa did make an interjection. I am going to be writing to the Speaker to review the tape because I do believe the member for Thuringowa not only made an interjection but does not have the ticker to—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the Opposition.

Mr HARPER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hold fire, members! Member for Thuringowa, you have a point of order?

Mr HARPER: Yes. I consider the member's contribution and words just then offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, hold fire for a second. Leader of the Opposition, two things: I ask you to withdraw the unparliamentary language and, two, the member has asked you to withdraw.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw on both fronts. Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I had just given direction to the chamber. Given that you are acting leader of the House, I will give you one chance.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Queenslanders deserve action. Queenslanders deserve the government to listen to them. Queenslanders do not deserve to be some sort of pawns in a political game of trade-offs between different factions of a government at war with itself, a government whose backbenchers will sign a petition about breach of bail and then squirm out of it, a government whose backbenchers will say they are coming to parliament to take on the very laws that the government will be implementing, and a government whose own ministers are prepared to leak against the police minister for bringing PowerPoints into a cabinet meeting.

That is where we have got to in Queensland. We have got to the stage in Queensland where everything is about management of the media. This government has stopped listening. This government no longer sees the issue as an issue of law and order; they see it as a political issue because they are in survival mode. Do you know who else is in survival mode? Queenslanders—Queenslanders who just want to know that when they go to bed at night they have the right not to have someone climbing over the top of their children's beds, Queenslanders who have the right to know that the ute they worked hard for in order to get up in the morning to go and earn a living to keep a roof over their head might be there, Queenslanders who are paying higher insurance premiums, and Queenslanders who have never felt more unsafe because of the lazy government.

(Time expired)