




Speech By
David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2023

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government; Youth Crime

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (5.11 pm): It is often said that past performance does not predict future results but there is always an exception to the rule, and we have heard it here tonight with the member for Bulimba and the long-term performance of the member for Redcliffe. I support the motion moved by my colleague the member for Clayfield and I want to go back to the Attorney-General's performance from when she was last there—the reheated Attorney-General from 2016. It is a measure of the crisis and chaos that has stricken this government that we have the failed and reheated youth justice minister, the member for Bulimba, and the Attorney-General back in their old positions.

Who can forget that the Attorney-General in 2016 removed breach of bail? After that, she brought in catch-and-release laws. Let us also not forget the performance of the Attorney-General on a whole range of other issues. In 2016 she junked Fitzgerald-era optional preferential voting reform. In 2017 she introduced a law that was never suggested by the CCC with the ban on property developer donations in the shadow of the election campaign. In 2020 she came in and finished the job with the financial gerrymandering of the electoral system. Who can forget that she showed such disregard for Fitzgerald-era reforms that she brought in 229 amendments in 100 pages at 9.30 the night before? Then how can we forget that she moved 17-year-olds into the youth justice system without any plan? We know that at that time that precipitated the watch house crisis that at one stage saw more children in the Brisbane Watch House than adults. We then saw the youth justice minister back in the old job now go on to give the most expensive TV interview in Australian history—a \$500 million interview with *Four Corners* as she tried to mop up the mess. We had children in watch houses in a most shameful chapter of our history. We had children with severed fingers. We had children lying on foam mattresses crying for their mothers dressed in smocks. We will not be lectured to by the youth justice minister and the Attorney-General in this state.

Who voted for all of this? Who voted for all of it but the member for Barron River. The member for Barron River voted for all of it while his community suffers with crime. You are three times more likely to have your car stolen in Cairns than you are in Brisbane. You are four times more likely to have your home or business broken into in Cairns than you are in Brisbane. What did we hear about crime from the member for Barron River in Cairns in the last sitting week? Nothing! Nothing! The member for Barron River in his home city for a home sitting said nothing about the issue that is consuming his community.

I want to turn now briefly to the events in the Toowoomba region this afternoon. This week we have had two significant ram-raiding incidents. Once upon a time offenders used to flee the police; now they are running at them. There has never been a more dangerous time for a police officer to serve and protect their community than right now in Queensland. There has never been a more dangerous time, so love and strength to the four officers who were injured today along with the three police cars that were damaged and the property damage that has been ongoing. We will not stop. We will not stop

fighting for stronger laws. We will not stop because we will keep listening. We on this side of the House will keep listening to the people of Queensland. We will not stop fighting for stronger laws and better resourcing for the police and early intervention that works. We will not stop fighting for these things until everyone in the suburbs feels safe, until everyone in their streets feels safe and until everyone in their homes feels safe.

(Time expired)