




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2023

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government; Youth Crime

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (5.21 pm): When Queensland is in the grip of the biggest crime crisis that this state has faced—not only in Brisbane and Cairns but also in Hervey Bay, Bundaberg, Maryborough and Keppel—the member for Keppel stands in this House and spends two minutes talking about herself. This is not about the member for Keppel; it is about the victims of crime. It is about time that the Palaszczuk government members woke up and realised what is going on in their communities. In Hervey Bay, businesses are being repeatedly broken into. For elderly people in Hervey Bay, Bundaberg, Maryborough or anywhere in the Wide Bay, your chances of having your car flogged, your house broken into, your bag snatched or your business broken into has increased tenfold. It is unbelievable.

Let us look at the statistics on the unlawful use of a motor vehicle in the Wide Bay police district, which is a very large district. Hardworking police men and women are on the front line each and every day working their backsides off while this incompetent government has members who sit in this House and talk about themselves. Am I angry about this? You bet I am! I am angry because every single one of us on this side of the chamber receive the calls. We listen to the people and we go out and speak to them. Those opposite might think it is funny. The member for Pine Rivers should wait until her house is broken into or her car is flogged. Do not think you are exempt from this. Why the member for Pine Rivers actually believes she is above it all when every single person in this state—

Ms BOYD: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the comments of the member for Nanango personally offensive and I ask her to withdraw.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Nanango, the member has found your comments personally offensive and asks that they be withdrawn.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. I will give a little history lesson to those opposite. In 2015 and 2016, when the now recycled Attorney-General was the Attorney-General, she came into this House and introduced the laws that removed breach of bail as an offence and removed detention as a last resort. The juveniles who were fronting the courts went, 'Yeeshaw!' I remember this because I worked as a child lawyer in the criminal justice system with those juveniles. They rubbed their hands together and they said, 'We can now do what we want and there'll be no consequences.' Those juveniles have grown up under the Palaszczuk government's system. Those juveniles are now adult criminals and they are running around the streets because there are no consequences under the Palaszczuk government.

That is why we will always stand up for the victims of crime. That is why we will always say that we need to be tougher on crime. It is unbelievable that Palaszczuk government members are so ignorant of the fact that crime is happening on the streets. Where is the member for Maryborough, where is the member for Bundaberg and where is the member for Hervey Bay when they should be standing up for their communities? The member for Maryborough—

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Acting Speaker, I take personal offence at the abuse that I just received from across the chamber. I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Maryborough, the member has found your comments to be personally offensive and asks you to withdraw.

Mr SAUNDERS: I withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: As I was saying, where is the member for Maryborough? He is certainly not standing up for the victims of crime within the Maryborough region. Where is the member for Bundaberg? He is completely silent when the crime rates have gone up. Under the Palaszczuk government, since 2015 there are two fewer police officers looking after the Maryborough region. How is that standing up for the community? Why is the member for Maryborough not going to the police minister and saying, 'Excuse me, we have an increase in crime by 237 per cent and the unlawful use of a motor vehicle is up by 246 per cent, but you've given us fewer coppers.'

It is no wonder that the people of the Wide Bay are upset with the Palaszczuk government. It is no wonder that they think their members do not voice their concerns in this place. We have just heard the member for Keppel speak for two minutes but it was all about her. It is the LNP that will keep this community safe.