




Speech By
Hon. Di Farmer

MEMBER FOR BULIMBA

Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2023

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government; Youth Crime

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice) (5.05 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'notes' be omitted and the following inserted:

- '1. on 16 March 2023 the LNP voted in support of the Queensland government's stronger youth justice laws in the Strengthening Community Safety Bill;
2. the importance of providing strong laws, funding and intervention programs to tackle crimes committed by youths;
3. the strong legacy of justice and legal reforms of Attorney-General D'Ath over successive years compared to former LNP attorney-general Bleijie, who oversaw a litany of youth justice and other failures, including but definitely not limited to:
 - (a) failed youth justice boot camps;
 - (b) failed boot camp tender;
 - (c) cuts to youth justice conferencing;
 - (d) spending \$15,000 on chartering helicopter flights to visit the failed boot camps;
 - (e) orchestrating the sacking of the PCMC in the middle of the night;
 - (f) removing the CCC's corruption prevention function;
 - (g) failed sex offender laws;
 - (h) attacks on the judiciary;
 - (i) failed bikie laws;
 - (j) failed pink jumpsuit policy for prisoners;
 - (k) rushed outsourcing of court transcription services;
 - (l) abolishing the Drug Court;
 - (m) abolishing the Special Circumstances Court;
 - (n) abolishing the Murri Court;
 - (o) abolishing the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council; and
 - (p) leaking private conversations with senior members of the judiciary.'

Where do I start? The member for Clayfield was talking about figures. I would like to quote some figures. I want to start with what they call the breach-of-bail laws. We all know that these were really pretend breach-of-bail laws; they were not real breach-of-bail laws. Those opposite talk about unshackling the judiciary. Not only did they not unshackle the judiciary; they actually shackled them, because they were laws that did not work. In fact, the courts found that those laws contradicted the Criminal Code rule against double punishment, so a child could be found guilty of an offence but not

given any penalty. What did the figures look like for their breach-of-bail offence? Ninety per cent of the people who offended and were charged under this offence reoffended after one year and 94 per cent of them reoffended after the second year.

Let us look at that again in terms of what works and what does not work. Let us look at some figures. Over the entire 27 months that that offence was in place, 185 young people were charged. Those opposite voted for the strengthening community safety laws, so they must have thought that they were okay. In under two months since the new laws have been in place, 299 people have been charged while there were 185 under their Clayton's breach-of-bail laws. Let those opposite ask the community: which ones does it want? Does it want the laws that work—the laws that we introduced—or does it want the laws that those opposite put in place that do not work? What else can we talk about? How about boot camp? If we want to talk about the things that work, we know that the former attorney-general did sloppy work. His breach-of-bail law was just sloppy, so no wonder he is called the worst attorney-general ever. The boot camps were sloppy. He jumped over about eight other people because he tendered to pick an LNP donor.

Mr Purdie interjected.

Ms FARMER: What happened when kids went to boot camp? They were more likely to commit an offence if they went to boot camp.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Sorry to interrupt, Minister, but, member for Ninderry, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms FARMER: Kids were more likely to commit an offence if they went to boot camp. If those opposite want to get started, they are the first two that I can think of in terms of what works and what does not work. When I go to members of the community I say, 'Do you want something that works?' If they say 'yes', I give them our figures and I give them those figures where they are more likely to offend—

(Time expired)