




Speech By
James Lister

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Goondiwindi, Crime

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (7.11 pm): I would like to rise in the House to speak about the matter of crime in Goondiwindi. This is something which members will be familiar with as I have spoken about it on many occasions before. I was contacted today by Councillor Susie Kelly—

Mrs Frecklington: Hear, hear!

Mr LISTER: I take that acknowledgement from the member for Nanango. She is a much respected councillor in the Goondiwindi Regional Council. She and her family were subjected to a home invasion in the last week or so. That was an extremely frightening experience. She has given me the authentic voice of the people of Goondiwindi who are struggling to sleep at night because every voice and every snap of a twig in the yard outside heralds the possibility of more offenders smashing a door in, assaulting the occupants and trying to steal car keys.

I will give an indication of a couple of events which I am advised occurred in the last 48 hours in Goondiwindi. I took the opportunity about 10 minutes ago to speak with the Goondiwindi police station to satisfy myself that no offenders have been identified or charged in relation to these offences. I hope that will satisfy any concerns about the sub judice rule.

At 12.10 am on 14 June, three offenders kicked down the door of a local motel room. They threw a chair at a 44-year-old male. The offender stole his wallet, computer and keys. The offender then departed in his white Kia Sorrento. At 1.52 am, four to five offenders forced the door to a local motel down and threatened the 77-year-old occupant to give up his keys. A struggle ensued during which the offenders hit the occupant in the head with a cooler bag and a glass jar. The offenders have not been located and the keys were left in the room on this occasion.

At about 2 am, unknown offenders entered a caravan park. A struggle occurred between the occupant and several offenders who grabbed the vehicle keys. Offenders went outside and attempted to enter the vehicle while the individual was still struggling with them. At 2.15 am, two unknown offenders attempted to enter a residence on Racecourse Road. The offenders were unsuccessful but left the scene. At 2.20 am, unknown offenders forced the door of a local motel room open. Offenders entered and removed the keys to a Mazda CX5 and the person's wallet. Offenders stole the vehicle. The vehicle was used in several other offences in Goondiwindi and Boggabilla. There are several more which I do not have time to refer to.

When I hear commentary like what came from the Attorney-General today saying that Labor governments can balance things and deliver things like reforms for crime, better roads and social policy, I would say to them that they need to speak to the people of Goondiwindi, who are horrified that we have spent the last two days debating and quibbling about matters to do with birth certificates while people in Goondiwindi are dealing with this. We need to make sure that magistrates are able to lock up these offenders to stop the crime.

(Time expired)