



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 29 March 2023

**MOTION**

**Cairns, Townsville and Redlands Electorates**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (4.58 pm): It gives me absolute pleasure to move—

That this House notes:

- (a) crime rates in Cairns in the last year have increased, including a 52 per cent increase in unlawful entry and a 38 per cent increase in unlawful use of motor vehicles;
- (b) crime rates in Townsville in the last year have increased, including a 34 per cent increase in assaults and a 22 per cent increase in thefts; and
- (c) the lack of adequate health services in Redlands has resulted in ambulance ramping reaching 73 per cent;

and acknowledges the selection of strong, community-based candidates in Rebecca Young (Redlands), Natalie Marr (Thuringowa) and Yolonde Entsch (Cairns) by the Liberal National Party to champion the interests of the residents of these three electorates and help ease the cost-of-living, health and crime crises facing Queenslanders.

As honourable members know, the motion that I gave notice of this morning talked about accountability and the crime crisis in Queensland, particularly in Far North Queensland, North Queensland and the Redlands area. In Cairns, for instance, we have seen unlawful entry rise by 38 per cent and the unlawful use of motor vehicles rise. In Townsville we have seen crime rise, including a 34 per cent increase in assaults and a 22 per cent increase in thefts. The motion also calls on the government to address the lack of adequate health services in Redlands which has resulted in ambulance ramping reaching 73 per cent. That is the bad of the motion.

The good of the motion is, of course, the LNP candidates who have moved to address these issues in their communities. We have preselected fantastic candidates to address the issues because, as members in this House know and as the people of those communities know, in Thuringowa, Redlands and Cairns representation from the Labor members has been zilch. It has been bad. They have failed to bring the issues of their electorates into this parliament. Of course, they say one thing in Far North Queensland, one thing in North Queensland and one thing in Redlands, but another when they get here. When they are here they are just the political puppets of the Labor Party. They are not champions for their communities—not at all.

Let us look at the member for Cairns and his history in this place. In an article in the *Cairns Post* he said—

I'm not singing the party line, I'm going to take down to Brisbane what's going on.

Well, I am waiting for that. I am waiting to see all of these issues that he is going to bring to Brisbane and take to the government, because we have not seen him do that. He says one thing to his Cairns community and another thing when he gets down here.

It gets better. The member for Thuringowa likes fighting with his local newspaper. In fact, he likes fighting with his community. When we were raising the issues of the crime crisis in Thuringowa, the member did not say, 'We need to address the issue.' Do you know what he said, Deputy Speaker? He said, 'We should stop talking about it so no-one knows about it.' He did not want his local paper to report on the crime crisis because he sees nothing that will fix all of the problems in his electorate. No way, Jose.

**Mr McDonald** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the gesticulatory interjection from the member for Lockyer. That is what he is doing: 'Sh! Don't tell anyone. No-one will know.' Well, Thuringowa residents know. Thuringowa residents know that they do not have good representation from the Labor Party at the moment.

Of course, the community of the member for Redlands has seen ambulance ramping reach 73 per cent. I repeat: ambulance ramping has reached 73 per cent. She thinks that a satellite hospital will fix all of those problems. A satellite hospital will have no overnight beds and offer no major surgery, but the member for Redlands tells her community, 'Don't worry because the satellite hospital will fix everything.' I table an article, which members will remember, headlined 'Budget paper blooper over new \$40 million Redland hospital address'. The budget put it in the wrong location. That is the member for Redlands for you: 'We're going to build a hospital and we've put it in the budget, but we forgot the location.' That forced the member for Redlands to clarify their position for her community.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 4 December 2020, titled 'Budget paper blooper over new \$40 million Redland hospital address' [402](#).

I refer to another article headlined 'Thuringowa MP Aaron Harper needs refresher on his job'. I will table a copy of that article. Basically the article says that the member for Thuringowa does not deliver for the people in his electorate because he says one thing in Brisbane to appease the Labor Party and he says another thing in his community.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 2 May 2019, titled 'Thuringowa MP Aaron Harper needs refresher on his job' [403](#).

The great news is that we have fantastic candidates on the ground who will get things moving in those electorates. I mention Rebecca Young who, incidentally, today was out in the community talking to the good people of Redlands. Natalie Marr will bring a real voice to the people of Thuringowa. She is a true champion of that community. Of course, in Cairns Yolonde Entsch, a great local businesswoman, will provide fantastic representation for that electorate. The Labor Party are not delivering in those electorates but the LNP candidates will.

*(Time expired)*