



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2023

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Kawana Electorate, Youth Crime**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): I want to raise the issue of youth crime on the Sunshine Coast. The Sunshine Coast, in particular the electors of Kawana, are suffering under the youth crime crisis we have in Queensland at the moment. If you look at the last month alone, in the Sunshine Coast Police District there were: 65 cars stolen, 119 break and enters, 522 other thefts, 106 assaults and 131 incidents of property damage. The youth crime crisis—the crime crisis—is real, and people on the Sunshine Coast are suffering the consequences.

The consequences are as a result of weakened laws. In 2015 when Anastacia Palaszczuk was elected Premier one of the first pieces of legislation they introduced into this parliament weakened youth justice laws in Queensland. They got rid of breach of bail. They brought back detention as a last resort because they put the rights of offenders before the rights of victims. We need that to change. We need a government that is focused on victims and listens to victims. That is what victims are crying out for.

Youth justice laws were weakened in 2015 and 2016, and on Australia Day across my electorate there were break and enters at Wurtulla and Bokarina. The other day there was antisocial behaviour in the park at Bokarina Beach. All during the Easter holidays youth were terrorising my community and there was drinking in the parks. There was a boom box in the park at three o'clock in the morning. The community has had enough. We need more police and resources on the Sunshine Coast.

I am going to table a document today that shows why we have a youth crime crisis on the Sunshine Coast. This is the Premier's travelling brief. This is the brief the Premier gets when she comes to the Sunshine Coast. It contains all of the speaking notes for the Premier when she is asked about issues like youth crime.

The Premier's speaking notes from July 2022 show that in 2015 police FTEs on the Sunshine Coast were 561.08. In 2022, eight years after Anastacia Palaszczuk was elected Premier, it was down to 551.18. This Premier has cut 10 police officers from the Sunshine Coast in the last eight years. They would have us believe that police numbers have been on the increase. As we can see, this document proves that the Labor Party has cut police officers on the Sunshine Coast. That is why when they are called out the community is getting frustrated because we do not have enough police officers. They got rid of over 14 fire officers, down from 143 to 129. I table a copy of the Premier's travel brief, which proves the Sunshine Coast Police District has fewer officers under the Labor Party than it did when it was first elected in 2015.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Sunshine Coast: Travelling Issues Briefs Index, July 2022' [523](#).