




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Police Resources; Youth Justice

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.45 pm): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I say this to the Minister for Police: announcements mean nothing if you are not delivering them. They can announce this, reannounce it and keep announcing it. He can talk about police numbers—he can talk about approved numbers—until the cows come home. As the opposition leader said, when someone is breaking into their home and they ring triple zero, an approved officer is not going to answer the phone call—an actual officer will.

The police minister keeps hiding behind the Police Commissioner and now the Police Union. He has to be honest with the people of Queensland and tell the people of Queensland that under his ministerial watch actual police numbers have gone down and crime has gone up. Is it any wonder that the people of Far North Queensland are feeling unsafe to live in their own homes! Announcements are one thing; deliverables are another.

I say to the Leader of the Opposition, who asked the question before, Queenslanders are wondering: where is the Premier? I have the answer for that. If I were a betting man like my colleague the member for Mermaid Beach, I would bet that at the Gladstone rally that was organised for the mothers in Gladstone last week, if the opposition leader had turned up and rolled out the red carpet and brought a bottle of Chandon, the Premier would have attended. If it had been a red carpet event, Premier Palaszczuk would have been there.

If the *Today* show had said to the Premier, 'Straight after the youth crime forum, we're going to do an interview about the Logies. Will you now attend the youth crime forum?' she would have been there—absolutely—because when has this Premier ever denied an opportunity to go on the *Today* show, or whatever program, to talk about the fun aspects of the job like the Logies? She did an exclusive interview on the red carpet at the Logies last year, but she will not turn up and go on the *Today* show with the police minister and the Attorney-General and the youth justice minister—look at the three of them caucusing over there at the moment. None of them turned up to the youth justice forum and listened to the Queenslanders who have had family members killed by people and juveniles in this state! They did not have the fortitude, the courage, to turn up and listen to the victims of crime in this state. Shame on them!

If you want to see the arrogance of this government look no further than Treasurer Dick when he stood up this morning. We talked about a function they had last night, and what did he say? 'We had fun at the function last night.' Well, good. Good on him. I am glad he had fun. I am glad the Labor members, sipping on champagne and beer, had fun at the function last night, when people in Cairns were wondering whether their homes were going to get broken into, whether they had locked the door. So they got out of bed to check that they had locked the door, whether their utes were stolen, whether their families were going to be protected in the night. That is what the opposition leader and the LNP are talking to people in Far North Queensland about. We are not just here for the fun times and all the

events that the government are organising. The Labor Party are absolutely drunk on power. It is shameful that the parliament comes to regional Queensland and the Treasurer gets up and talks about the fun times. Of course he would because that is all the Premier is interested in—the fun times of this job—not rolling her sleeves up and fixing the issues such as the housing crisis in Cairns, the homelessness issue and the youth crime crisis.

This job is not all fun, members, Premier, Treasurer Dick. It is not all about fun; this job is about responsibility and protecting Queenslanders. I am talking about the chaos of this government and their wrong priorities. Last year we had the Chief Whip attacking his local health board. The health minister then said no, there was nothing wrong with the health board she appointed. Then we had Minister Butcher say he was going to resign if the Gladstone maternity service was not put back on, but 300 days later he is still sitting there collecting his \$400,000 salary. He has not resigned and services have not been fully restored. Now we have the member for Maryborough calling for an investigation into his own government's youth justice policies. What do those three members have in common? They are all in the left faction. They are coming for the Premier. They are absolutely deliberately undermining the Premier. Look at the Attorney-General—the deputy in charge of the left faction—laughing. It is the Attorney-General who is putting these members up to do the dirty work of the Attorney-General. She is like, 'Pick me! Pick me!' instead of Steven Miles the Deputy Premier and Mark Bailey. This government is in chaos. Queenslanders deserve, and can do, so much better.