



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2023

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Kawana Electorate**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.30 pm): The Sunshine Coast is not immune to the crime crisis gripping Queensland. On Good Friday, Scott, who works at the NightOwl in Little Mountain in my electorate, was getting ready to close the shopfront for the night when an armed robber entered the store, jumped the counter and assaulted him with what looked like a metal baton. The offender escaped with cigarettes and cash. Scott was taken to hospital. I want to pay tribute to Scott today and to thank our local community for rallying around Scott and his family at this difficult time. I have seen the messages of support and the get-well flowers and chocolates delivered and left at the NightOwl in Little Mountain for Scott. He is a popular team member who always greets everyone with a smile.

I have also seen members of my community call for stronger consequences for actions to deal with the crime crisis and make sure victims' rights are put before the rights of offenders. When I last had a community crime forum in Meridan Plains, there was a call to establish a Neighbourhood Watch in the area. I am advised that when Queensland police contracted attendees who had expressed an interest in the Neighbourhood Watch they were unable to get enough people to constitute the board. I would like anyone in the Meridan Plains, Aroona and Little Mountain area who would like to be part of a Neighbourhood Watch that we will set up to please contact me.

2023 saw the second edition of the Nurture Festival, an entertainment packed, alcohol-free safe space for first-time festival goers and families in my electorate. The festival idea was the creation of two Sunshine Coast mental health organisation leaders, Mark Forbes of ended and Nathan Taylor of Comunite'z. Through their experience of working with young people and their families on the Sunshine Coast, Mark and Nathan recognised a growth in demand for youth mental health support services that is often not being met purely through the mainstream health system. I want to thank them for the second festival that was held on the weekend.

I congratulate Mooloolaba Rotary Club on their 50th anniversary. We had a fundraiser to celebrate, raising money for ended, Mark and Gaye Forbes's charity on the Sunshine Coast. It was a legend showcase. Of course, Mark Andrews was there as Elvis—and so was I. I did not want to upstage the professional, so I sat there stomping my feet. I did not want to distract from the real entertainer of the night, but I was there in my full Elvis regalia.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** If you mention Elvis, they are all on board!

Finally, I raise the issue of turtle nesting on the Sunshine Coast along Bokarina Beach and Buddina Beach. It is one of the largest stretches of turtle nesting in Queensland along our beachfront community in my electorate. The developer along the beachfront in Buddina has put in an application to council to remove three turtle lighting conditions. I implore people in the Buddina area to write to the Sunshine Coast Council and oppose that change. These conditions were deliberately put in place to make sure we have the world's best protected turtle nests, as we do now.