



Speech By  
**Jarrod Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 October 2023

**MOTION**

**Townsville, Youth Crime**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.53 pm): I never thought I would start a contribution on a debate by thanking the Labor Party for the huge promotion of 'The Right Priorities for Queensland's Future' document. I have never seen a government so bereft of ideas that they would actually concentrate all two days of parliament—question time, ministerial statements, a motion debate today—talking about the LNP's 'The Right Priorities for Queensland's Future'. They are obsessed with us. They are obsessed with our document. They are obsessed with that document because they know that after nine years they need to cling to anything to come up with ideas because they have run out of ideas. They have no ideas to fix these issues.

The minister who just spoke is now the Minister for Youth Justice again. The interview she gave on *Four Corners* should have cemented her political career as dead, buried, cremated. There is no turning back from that *Four Corners* interview. She implemented the bail houses which they then had to backtrack from. They abolished them. That minister then set up the department of youth justice with its own director-general. They then abolished the department of youth justice after that minister failed in that regard. Not to be demoted, she gets promoted and then back into the very portfolio that is most of the causal effect of the youth crime crisis we have in this state.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection. There is no prospect of promotion for any of the backbench. Not only do I take the interjection from the honourable member for Everton; it was the Premier's own comments in the media to the *Courier-Mail* that she would not say any of her backbench could be promoted, including the backbencher who is gesticulating at the moment. There is no chance, member for Thuringowa, of promotion into the Palaszczuk government's cabinet.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection. Not only is the cupboard bare of policies; the cabinet is hopeless and the backbench is hopeless. Let's look at some of the contributions from our honourable colleagues. Minister Mark Ryan started his contribution by moving an amendment to pat themselves on the back. Meanwhile, Queenslanders are saying, 'We are in a youth crime crisis. Crime has skyrocketed under the Labor Party.' The very first thing the Labor Party do is say, 'Let's pat ourselves on the back.' Sorry, Labor Party. They do not deserve to be patting themselves on the back because their record is atrocious in this regard.

In 2015-16, they started down the slippery slope of taking away tough laws in youth crime. They weakened the youth justice laws. We have fewer police on the beat now. Is it any wonder we have a youth crime crisis? The member for Townsville said that people are being held accountable; it is all rosy in his electorate. Really? I do not think so. That is not the feedback we are getting.

The member for Thuringowa talked about backing our police. Not the Minister for Transport! No-one in the Labor Party has called out the comments of the Minister for Transport, Mark Bailey, today attacking the police, attacking our hardworking police men and women on the beat. No-one in the Labor Party has called out Minister for Transport Bailey's comments on that, and that is shameful. The member for Mundingburra—

**Mr Hinchliffe** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Sandgate, you are warned under the standing orders. I have given multiple pieces of guidance on interjections.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The member for Mundingburra—aka Jean Valjean 24601. He will not even know what I am talking about—'Look down, look down.' Mr Deputy Speaker, I would put to you that the member for Mundingburra has more personal experience with the justice system than the former member for Mundingburra ever did, and maybe we would like to understand those personal experiences of watch houses and what it looks like inside a watch house, or maybe our wonderful candidate for Mundingburra was the arresting officer for the current member for Mundingburra. Who knows?

We know that the Labor Party has failed Queenslanders. We know that there are great candidates like Natalie Marr in Thuringowa and Janelle Poole in Mundingburra who are taking on the Labor Party and sticking it up the Labor Party for and on behalf of Queenslanders. The Labor Party are soft on crime. They do not have the solutions, but the LNP do because we have the right priorities for Queensland's future.