




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 21 February 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Youth Crime

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.57 am): We all want the same thing—community safety—and we are all on the same page when it comes to that. Our government’s approach is about targeting serious—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, the minister has barely started his ministerial statement. You will cease your interjections.

Mr RYAN: Our approach is about targeting serious repeat youth offenders, tackling the complex causes of youth crime and investing in community safety initiatives. For the first time this century, Queensland will have a breach of bail offence that applies to young offenders as a result of laws that we are introducing today. Today I will introduce legislation to the parliament that will make a breach of an offender’s bail conditions a crime.

It is time for a reality check. A previous administration had a law that made it an offence to be found guilty of committing an offence while on bail. It was not a breach of bail law. Breaching bail conditions was not an offence under that law. It was a fake and it did not work.

The laws we are introducing today are much stronger. Breaching bail conditions will be an offence for youth offenders in Queensland, and our laws will stand up to the scrutiny of the courts, unlike those of the previous administration.

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, you will cease your interjections.

Mr RYAN: Our government has also listened to the community and we are increasing penalties for serious offences and serious offenders. Further to that, we are rolling out engine immobilisers in a subsidised trial in Cairns, Townsville and Mount Isa. The government will provide financial support to vehicle owners in the trial areas to have a device fitted to their car which has the ability to prevent the vehicle being stolen in the first place. We will also boost police resourcing so that extreme high-visibility police patrols become a permanent feature of community safety in this state. In addition, the operational capability of the police State Flying Squad will be enhanced and expanded with a specific focus on dealing with youth crime hotspots wherever and whenever they arise.

These are just some of the measures we are introducing, but all of them have a single focus and that is the safety of Queenslanders.