



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 October 2023

**MOTION**

**Townsville, Youth Crime**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.06 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after ‘notes’ be omitted and the following inserted:

- (a) the impacts of crime on the people of Queensland and police officers;
- (b) the Palaszczuk government’s continued support for victims of crime, including over \$200 million boost to enhance support for victims of crime in Queensland;
- (c) the Palaszczuk government’s \$446.4 million investment to target serious repeat youth offenders, tackle the complex causes of crime and enhance community safety;
- (d) the strong advocacy of the members for Townsville, Mundingburra and Thuringowa has seen:
  - (i) for the first time in Queensland’s history breach of bail condition is an offence for young offenders under the Bail Act;
  - (ii) a new serious repeat offender sentencing framework;
  - (iii) the establishment of a street university in Townsville;
  - (iv) record investments in community safety in Townsville, including the Townsville Stronger Communities initiative.
- (e) the strong advocacy of all government members for stronger laws for community safety; and
- (f) the opposition’s failure to produce a detailed crime plan, despite promising one over 1,000 days ago.’

In response to this topic, which comes up quite often and is a topic that we take very seriously, community members find it quite frustrating that those opposite seek to—

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr RYAN:** No, wait a moment—paint the picture that we do not take this seriously. There is a very genuine desire by everyone to ensure community safety. It is not something exclusively held by one side of politics over the other. Everyone has a genuine commitment to community safety and everyone wants to do everything they can to deliver community safety outcomes. There may be arguments about policy and how to achieve that, but to suggest for one moment that members of this House do not care about community safety—that is what we just heard from the member for Burdekin—is misleading at best. Everyone cares about it. That is why the members for Thuringowa, Townsville and Mundingburra are strong advocates on this issue. That is why members of the government, members of the opposition and members of the crossbench are strong advocates for action. No-one has a monopoly on wanting a safe community.

The government’s response has been one which is considered, serious and focused on achieving what we hope will enhance community safety: strengthening laws to target serious repeat offenders and enhance consequences for action and strengthening resources for partner agencies to intervene early. We announced one of those just recently with Bullyproof and Jeff Horn. Last week I was in Townsville with the member for Thuringowa, visiting the Street University. We are continuing to do

everything we can. We are boosting resources for the Queensland Police Service and supporting them in their recruitment efforts through the government's historic and record investment in the Queensland Police Service. We all have a commitment to community safety. We want to work together with everyone to ensure that we get good outcomes for communities.

Those opposite have had opportunities to put forward their plans. In fact, the member for Burdekin promised a plan 1,020 days ago. In recent times he was reported as saying that he is still working on it. The government continues to put plans forward. The government continues to make investments. The government continues to do everything it can to enhance community safety. This is something that we all take very seriously.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge those people who have been impacted by crime. It is traumatic and we all acknowledge that. We all want to ensure that those people are supported. That is why, in recent times, we have also increased victims support and we have enhanced opportunities for victims to feed into government policy. This is an important issue. It is one that we should be working on together and not trying to grandstand by saying which one is better than the other.