




Speech By  
**Michael Hart**

**MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH**

---

Record of Proceedings, 15 March 2023

### **STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL**

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (6.50 pm): This is typical of members of the Labor Party: they get up and talk about things but never follow through. The member for Gladstone has just told us that the people out there expect their government to take action and to get things done. They do. They want the government to get things done, but over the past eight years this government has completely and utterly failed them. For the member for Gladstone to say that we did not attempt to bring in breach of bail as an offence is just completely wrong, because in 2021—if the member for Gladstone wants to listen for a second—our shadow police minister tried to move an amendment that would do exactly that. This government blocked that amendment, saying that breach of bail did not work. Yet, in this legislation, it has copied that amendment word for word. It is exactly the same amendment that all members opposite blocked in 2021. Members opposite should not come in here and preach to us about being tough on crime because, quite frankly, this government is a joke. It is weak on crime.

Labor has been in government for eight years. If you listen to the people of Queensland, as I listen to the people of Queensland, you realise that they know that this government has failed. They know that it is soft on crime. The member for Currumbin and I have held two crime forums in our electorates in the past four or five years. We have listened to the people of our electorates while they have cried to us. They have told us about the impacts of crime on them. People have had their cars stolen, their work vehicles stolen, their toolboxes stolen. I understand that members opposite would not know too much about toolboxes. They would be more interested in being political apparatchiks or union members their whole lives. They have never actually done a job of work, but never mind. People have lost their livelihoods because some young hooligan has come in—

**Ms Richards** interjected.

**Mr HART:** I take the interjection from the member for Redlands.

**Mrs McMahon** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Member for Macalister, cease your interjections.

**Mr HART:** I take the interjection from the member for Redlands. I am not sure; is the member for Redlands on a warning? I do not know. Maybe she is.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Redlands, I ask you to leave the chamber for an hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Redlands withdrew from the chamber at 6.53 pm.*

**Mr HART:** The seafood buffet is on, member for Redlands; I have done you a favour. The previous speaker, the member for Gladstone, spoke about this legislation providing high-visibility policing. I would love to see some high-visibility policing in my electorate. I have been asking for more police in my electorate for the past seven or eight years. It has been falling on deaf ears, because we

have had the same allocation of police in the Palm Beach police district, as far as I know, for the past eight years. In fact, because the morale in the police department is down at the moment, we have fewer police than we ever have had down there. We do not have any high-visibility police. I absolutely commend the police officers who are left there doing the job, because they are doing a great job.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Burleigh, please direct all comments through the chair.

**Mr HART:** The officers on the Gold Coast, in particular in Palm Beach, are doing a great job. They do not have much to work with, but they are doing a great job.

Many members on the other side of the House have told us that this is a very complex and hard issue. All they are doing is burying their heads in the sand. Provide consequences for action and we will fix this problem. As the Leader of the Opposition has already told us, we need gold standard early intervention. We need to intervene with our children a lot younger. We need parents who love their children, nurture them and want them to live a good life in the future. Some parents are not like that, unfortunately. We are seeing our children go to school where sometimes they have no discipline in school. We need that early intervention to give them that discipline to stop them on the tracks to start with. When eventually they do fall into the pattern of crime, there need to be consequences.

**Mrs McMahon** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Macalister, you are now warned under the standing orders.

**Mr HART:** There need to be consequences. It is not that hard to provide meaningful consequences. How many times have we picked up the paper of a morning or watched the news of an evening and seen some 'recidivist' young child who has committed a crime—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr HART:** Apparently when I slip up with my pronunciation that is a bad thing, but never mind. Recidivist young criminals are breaking into people's houses or stealing cars, going to court and coming straight out the other side. It is a catch-and-release system. We all know that. We all know that, even though there are laws in place, hardly anyone is getting the maximum sentence. Maybe it is time we considered mandatory sentences if our courts are not sentencing people with something that actually means a consequence. There need to be consequences. I will say it over and over again, because the people in my electorate are telling me exactly the same thing. They do not think that any of these criminals have any consequences, so let's give them some consequences.

For the Premier to say, 'Violent juvenile car thieves will face 14 years' jail in a suite of increased penalties aimed squarely at keeping the community safe' is just a joke. We have heard from lots of members on this side that the youth justice system does not allow these criminals to be sent to jail for 14 years; in fact, it only allows for these criminals to be sent to jail for five years. That is the law.

As the member for Buderim said, if the Premier says something you would think they would bring in legislation to achieve that, but they have not. They have completely failed at that. I have a question for the police minister to address in his reply to the second reading debate. Will any youth offender who commits the type of crime the Premier talked about ever be sentenced to 14 years jail?

We have had this government come in with a 10-point plan, a four-point plan, a five-point plan and another 10-point plan. We have heard every member opposite stand up in a conga line and say, 'This will fix everything. This will fix it.' We have heard them again this time say, 'This will fix it. This is the final thing.' The member for Maryborough said that this will fix this issue. I bet the member for Maryborough will be back in here in six months time when we are doing this again saying, 'Now we have introduced something that will actually work.'

We need early intervention; there is no doubt about that. We need to get rid of detention as a last resort because, quite frankly, there needs to be consequences; otherwise we are going to see these kids on Facebook promoting their crimes. The Premier seems more worried about seeing them on Facebook than seeing crime stop.