




Speech By
Michael Healy

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

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MOTION: CAIRNS, TOWNSVILLE AND REDLANDS ELECTORATES

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (5.27 pm): I want to acknowledge the member for Moggill bringing a sensible approach. It is quite entertaining. There are times when I would like for the people of Queensland to see what happens at this time in this chamber.

We hear a significant amount of spurious and disingenuous statements from the opposition when it comes to crime. When we scratch below the surface there is no genuine concern or meaningful solution with any of their banter. We are still waiting for a plan. It is a shameful situation that the opposition's dubious attacks are based on fear and scaremongering, cuts and chaos. This is something that only makes matters worse for our community—

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Bonney, you are on a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Bonney withdrew from the chamber at 5.28 pm.

Mr HEALY: Those who serve and protect us on the front line really do not appreciate these allegations. However, let us consider this government's responses to community safety based on responsible and pragmatic initiatives that meaningfully tackle the issues both at their root cause and at the coalface.

We have: recently announced tough new laws to target serious repeat offenders; introduced breach of bail which has teeth and actually works, unlike something that is popular and does not work at all; invested more than \$100 million extra in diversion and rehabilitation; and targeted investment in community safety.

If we look at the figures out of Cairns, police tell me that from January 2022 to January 2023 we are 52 per cent down on car thefts. That is not good enough, but we are working towards that. It will be harder for serious repeat offenders to get bail and there will be even more investment in tackling the complex causes of youth crime. That includes a significant funding boost for the Queensland Police Service—unlike those opposite who cut funding—including a new \$25 million injection for high visibility police patrols and \$17 million for expanded joint flying squads.

Logically, that builds on the proposed laws announced in December 2022, including: increasing the maximum penalty for unlawful use of a motor vehicle from seven years to 10 years imprisonment with even more severe penalties of up to 14 years for aggravated offences; amending the Youth Justice Act, requiring courts to consider previous bail history, criminal activity and track record when sentencing—obviously something the community has been expecting; and increased penalties for criminals who have boasted about these crimes on social media. We acknowledge the complexities and we know they use social media as an influence. It is vitally important that we continue to commit—and we are committing—money. We are looking at the results, what works and what does not. We have built a new police station; we have additional police. We are ensuring we are getting the numbers.

I must say, there is one thing. The shadow minister for transport recently said, 'We have already identified a couple of billion dollars worth of savings. There are a range of areas that we know already that we can prune things back.' I suspect I am glad you have allocated somebody to represent your dysfunctional group in Cairns, because we want to ask what you are going to prune. What services are we going to see pruned? What roads aren't you going to invest in? What schools aren't you going to build? What little things are you going to come up with and try and cloud? The people of Queensland are absolutely on to you, and all you can do is sit here with your childish humour and scream and carry on. You have no substance. When you leave this chamber you do not have to win what happens here: it is what happens out in the street. You have absolutely no substance. You have no credibility. You have not brought a plan and you have a dysfunctional leader. The only thing that is more impressive than your dysfunction is your consistency. It is absolute and it has been going on and on. Regardless, we will continue to invest. I will continue to listen and work with the people of Cairns, who like a hardworking, honest and genuine representative. I will continue to work for them. I will continue to provide because that is what Labor governments do. No shadows, no fibs; we tell the truth.