




Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2023

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government; Youth Crime

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (5.49 pm): We know those opposite love to attack workers' rights. In any other workplace that behaviour in no way would be tolerated. The member for Buderim has just stood up screaming, pointing and shouting abuse at the member for Keppel, who is not only a colleague—

Mr Healy: A woman.

Ms BOYD: He was shouting across the chamber at a woman. It is absolutely disgraceful. I think that absolutely encompasses what the LNP do and the way they conduct themselves. Quite frankly, they cannot get up off the ground. It is little wonder that they are in the mess they are in today.

I rise today to support the amendment moved by Minister Farmer to the private member's motion. In doing so, I reflect upon the comparison that exists between the former LNP attorney-general Bleijie, who oversaw a litany of youth justice and other failures including but definitely not limited to attacks right across the legal spectrum. It is interesting to have a look at the biography of the member for Kawana. What we find is a bit of pumping up of his own tyres—not uncommon, I know—with the member for Kawana saying that he is—

... known for designing and introducing as Attorney General and Minister for Justice, what some commentators and community leaders described at the time, as the strongest laws in the country—commonly referred to as the VLAD laws—to deal with the threat of criminal motorcycle gangs.

That is interesting. Let us look into this a little further. Wikipedia is probably the general point where people start to do research. What we find there in terms of his stint as the attorney-general and minister for justice from 2012 to 2015 is that, as attorney-general, the member for Kawana 'introduced an amendment that renamed Queensland civil partnerships for same-sex couples into registered relationships and disallowed state-sanctioned ceremonies'. The member for Kawana 'subsequently unveiled legislation to ban single people and same-sex couples from having a child through surrogacy'. In 2015, the member for Kawana 'declared his support for same-sex marriage'. These backflips are not uncommon, I know.

What is really interesting is what I found when I started to look even further into the record of the member for Kawana in terms of him being the architect and the saviour of the 'strongest laws' protecting our community. I could find nothing that actually backed that in. The VLAD laws affected innocent people. They did not target the real kingpins of the drug trade or bikies, as those opposite purported they would. Police harassed and vilified the public. Who could forget the librarian who was locked up for having drinks or the Mount Isa man who was arrested for wearing a Sons of Anarchy T-shirt? This is how those opposite prevailed over law and order in the state of Queensland. Who could forget the motorcycle mechanic who was strip searched on the side of the road in front of a school? That is the record of those opposite when it comes to being tough on crime.

Interestingly, the crusade continued with the member for Kawana. The news articles—man, Mr Acting Speaker, these are interesting! You are hard pressed to find a single one that is complimentary. There were headlines such as the member for Kawana ‘slammed as “incompetent”’ and ‘defends leaking confidential chat’ and ‘Queensland Attorney-General ... sharply divides opinion with hard line sex predators, bikies, workers’ compensation’. Those folks in the legal profession had no regard for the member for Kawana when he was attorney-general in this state. In fact, it was quite the opposite. They talked about an ‘intolerable and matter-of-fact attack upon the profession and the courts’. They said that ‘confidentiality meant nothing’ to the member for Kawana. They went on to say that it was “impossible” for the legal profession to trust’ him.

Mr Watts: What about crime—is it up or down?

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Toowoomba North!

Ms BOYD: I will talk about crime in Toowoomba. How about standing there having a street party—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Ms BOYD: That is your record!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: I call the member for Pine Rivers.

Ms BOYD: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. It is very clear: not only does the community think they are incompetent; so does the government.

(Time expired)