




Speech By  
**Tim Mander**

**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 March 2023

**STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL**

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (4.28 pm): The member for Thuringowa has proven to the House that he lives in a parallel universal.

**Mr HARPER:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the member's remarks and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr MANDER:** I withdraw. This member has shown that he is completely out of touch with his community. For the last seven or eight minutes he has talked about his great record in Townsville and what he has fought for over the last eight years. Guess what: he has completely and utterly failed, because Townsville is where it all started. The newspapers called Townsville 'Dodge City' seven or eight years ago because every night cars were being stolen, houses were being invaded and people were being assaulted, and this member plus the other two members representing Townsville totally ignored what was happening. There was not a problem!

**Mr HARPER:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. I again find the member's remarks offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr MANDER:** I withdraw. The problem we have with this government—and the member for Thuringowa symbolises it all—is that they think that all they have to do is throw more money and more money at the problem. In fact, the Premier said herself that over the last eight years the government has allocated \$1.2 billion to this. Here we are today with another dot point plan. We had a three-point plan. We had a five-point plan. We had another five-point plan. We had a 47-point plan around the Youth Justice Act. Today we have a 10-point plan. Who remembers a few years ago the dot point to have police cadets in Townsville knock on people's doors and remind them to lock their doors? That was one of their dot points. It was law-abiding citizens' problem for not locking their doors. There was a time in regional Queensland when people would be proud of the fact that they could keep their homes open and leave the windows down on their cars because they were safe places to live.

Then we have had members opposite come into the House and pretend that these plans have been effective. What are we doing here today with a 10-point plan if they have been effective? The answer is that nothing has been effective. Those opposite have failed the basic test of a government which is to keep people safe.

Every member in this House has had people come to them and talk about the crimes that have been inflicted upon them. It has been disgraceful. I had somebody sit in front of me who had obvious signs of post-traumatic stress. This is a person who lives in the leafy suburb of Albany Creek. This is what she said to me in her letter—

Consequences for my family are as follows—

This was after they had a home invasion and things were stolen and people were in their house while they were in the house. The letter reads—

Paramount is the complete loss of any feeling of safety in our home but also when we are out in the community; living under lock and key day and night; sleeping with the house alarm on; monitoring CCTV cameras and notifications, including through the night—

when dogs walk past they go off because they feel they have to have them set to high sensitivity—

children being scared of noises at night. We have to minimise our outings at night. We are worried about leaving our house unattended when on holidays. We no longer go to the shops or the cafes locally for fear that our car is seen as a desirable target and we are followed back to our house. Our kids only play in their backyard when the door is unlocked for them and then locked again. No gate or door is left unlocked when expecting visitors or tradespeople. Everyone is locked in under this new world order.

That is the reality in Queensland at the moment. We have members like the member for Thuringowa who lives in denial and thinks their plans have been effective and yet here we are today talking about another 10-point plan—a 10-point plan that would, in my opinion, have been written within 48 hours on the back of an envelope by a couple of media advisers because they have a PR problem and a political problem.

As everybody on this side of the House has said, they do not believe it. The left lost the argument because those members, like us, have had people pounding down their doors about this issue. This is the greatest backflip since they pinched our air-conditioning policy. They bagged it and bagged it as they bagged breach of bail. Every one of them bagged it. I can name them. I am sure the member for Thuringowa got up and bagged it. Of course he did.

Hallelujah! They have had a road to Damascus moment. They have seen the light. Suddenly the LNP's policy is the saviour. That is what has happened. The hypocrisy knows no end. We have to sit opposite this mob and listen to this rubbish. They have no idea about law and order and crime control.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** The member for Toowoomba South has already brought this up, but I have to bring it up again. They have a political problem so the self-proclaimed ministerial heavyweight the member for Morayfield comes in here and talks tough—'We've got the toughest laws in the country.' They are not working, Minister. We are here again because they are not working. The minister's colleague the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport said the day before cabinet—on the Sunday—'It will not work bringing breach of bail back as an offence. We have all wiped it out.' Suddenly the PowerPoint presentation says, 'We have a political problem. This is what the political problem is: the LNP is right. We have to neutralise it. We have about 20 months before the election so let's do it now. Let's just cut it now and bleed a little bit at the moment. Hopefully everybody forgets.' We will not forget and the people of Queensland will not forget either. They are not stupid.

**An opposition member:** What did the left get?

**Mr MANDER:** What did the left get? I will take that interjection. The left got the drug laws. That was the trade-off. They gave them that. That is what we will see in the future as well.

Not only have we got this, but we have the most inane policy points I think I have ever seen. We have already talked about maximum sentences. People are not stupid. The first thing they say is 'Increase the maximum sentences.' All we want is a minimum sentence. All we want is for them to be detained for a short period of time.

We are not talking about those kids who can be turned around. We are talking about the 17 per cent. We are talking about the 570-odd kids who are hardcore offenders. Guess what? Although we have to do all the early intervention—that is important—we are always going to have hardcore offenders. That is why we have a police force. People do the wrong things. We have to have laws specifically for hardcore offenders and take them off the streets.

That is why the shadow police minister will try to bring in an amendment. The missing link is the magistrates. The Deputy Premier can get up and talk tough and speak against the magistrates, but let us remember who has appointed the magistrates for 30 of the last 35 years. It is the Labor government that has appointed them. Now they have shackled them.

They will not take the final step. The left will not let them go that far. The final step is to take away detention as a last resort. They should be fair dinkum and if they want the magistrates to do what the Deputy Premier and the police minister said they should do then give them the power and the ability to do that. Trust them and do not restrain them.

Here we are in March 2023—eight years after this government was elected—talking about the same issues. As has been said already, I have no doubt that in the next 12 months we will be back here again talking about this. The government will take out detention as a last resort because they know that the LNP knows what works for the community. Only our policies work.

*(Time expired)*