




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2023

MOTION

Vehicle Theft

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (5.52 pm): What a litany of excuses we have been subjected to for the past 55 minutes from those on that side of the House. We had a pusillanimous, pathetic, prevaricating police minister who said that we should all be in this together and that we are all united. I have news for the Labor Party: we are not united with you on your youth crime failures. We are not going to support your failures, your excuses or your treatment of victims of crime.

Today, the Premier refused to meet with honest everyday Queenslanders who are sick of being ignored by her government. They are sick of the excuses. They are sick of the mendacity. They are sick of hearing 'I meet with Queenslanders every day'. What did we find out today? She had enough time to do a grab with Lee Lovell, who was whisked away by his local member, Chris Whiting, under false pretences, but she could not find 30 minutes to meet with other victims of crime! She cannot use the excuse that she did not have the time because she found 30 minutes to meet with Mr Lovell, one of the victims, while ignoring the rest. That tells you everything you need to know about this Palaszczuk Labor government and the treatment they believe victims of crime deserve. All the others who turned up were ignored. Their crimes were not bad enough. It reminded me exactly of the Pullens: it was the same media opportunity and the same lack of action.

We heard from other Labor members. The member for Bundaberg spoke. Five votes, member for Bundaberg—five votes. That is five cars that are broken into.

Mr SMITH: Mr Acting Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take deep personal offence. It was nine votes. I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, you are warned. That was a frivolous point of order.

Mr NICHOLLS: Not only does he not know the law; he cannot count. That is minus five votes for the member for Bundaberg and five votes for the other side. That is five cars that are stolen and five houses broken into. With a 215 per cent increase in the crime rate in Bundaberg, he should not be counting his chickens before he is home and that is absolutely clear.

The member for Townsville spoke. Has anyone heard a less impassioned defence of the government: 'I'm concerned too'? That was the entire extent of it, yet there is a 95 per cent increase in vehicle theft in Townsville. For the past six years, Townsville has been ground zero for crimes including theft and break and enter.

The member for Cooper spoke. I was not sure whether or not she supports the motion. It was one of those more obscure contributions that I think was well meant by the member for Cooper but actually went nowhere and achieved nothing.

No doubt the member for Bulimba will spruik some of their successes. The member for Bulimba, along with the Attorney-General, who is not on the speaking list today, is the author of the litany of loss that victims of crime are suffering in Queensland right now. They proudly introduced the presumption of bail because they had a watch house problem. They had so many people in watch houses that they could not find enough room to keep them, so they changed the presumption of bail. They would rather the criminals go free than do the right thing. They have rejected, at every opportunity, sensible and reasonable propositions put forward by the LNP since 2016.

I say to the Palaszczuk Labor government, which is increasingly chaotic and crisis ridden, that since 2016 we have voted against every one of its laws that weakened youth justice laws—every single one of them. Now they have been caught out and are adopting the laws and the policies that we proposed, so of course we support them. What has been the most successful of those in the past two years? Breach of bail as an offence! We heard both the minister and the Premier parrot their success with 440-odd unique offenders being charged with 1,900 individual offences. It is LNP policy word for word.

There are other examples of their failures, but time does not permit me to outline them all. Here are some of the things that the Labor government have done: weakened the laws; ignored the warnings; followed a flawed left-wing ideology; ignored victims' rights; ignored the increasing crime rate; and only this afternoon, in a breach of decency and accountability, introduced a bill suspending their own Human Rights Act and introducing 57 pages of legislation. They opposed every one of our policies. In 2017 we said we should build extra youth detention centres. We promoted the introduction of breach of bail as an offence, \$3 million for advocacy, a police helicopter in North Queensland and rapid action patrols. There is one guilty party and it is the Labor Party.

(Time expired)