




Speech By  
**Trevor Watts**

**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH**

---

Record of Proceedings, 15 March 2023

**STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL**

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.11 pm), continuing: In the few moments I have remaining, I want to say, so that the people of Toowoomba and Queensland are aware, that when we needed the Premier in January she did not turn up. That is when we needed the youth justice laws to be brought forward. We could have recalled parliament early and prevented more victims, but that was not the case. These are the consequences of Labor watering down the youth justice laws and, as I spoke about earlier, the evidence of that and the victims it has created in my community are indisputable. Despite numerous promises, Labor has failed to implement appropriate early intervention strategies including failing to improve school attendance. That is after they had a major general write a report in Townsville and another report in 2018. They have not listened to their own advice and they have not implemented it.

Labor has constantly viewed this as a political problem, not a crime problem, and that has created more victims. It has constantly put the rights of offenders before the rights of victims and Labor, driven by ideology, is not looking after Queenslanders; it is looking after its own political future when playing with this.

We have a 10-point plan in front of us. For the record, my reckoning is that, in addition to the other plans that were put forward in 2015, 2016, 2019 and 2021, all together we have 26 points in plans, none of which seem to be working, and a 47-point Youth Justice Strategy 2019-2023 that does not seem to be working. We owe it to the victims to get this right. If we get it wrong, we are failing the children as well. The LNP will have gold standard early intervention and rehabilitation. By the way, let's get the kids out of the watch house—it is not the place for them.

*(Time expired)*