



Speech By Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 18 April 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Youth Justice Reform Select Committee

Mr PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (6.16 pm): Before the House rises tonight, I think it is important that I put a few words on the record in relation to the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee being disbanded last night in an ambush by this government using its numbers in the House. As my friend the member for Lockyer pointed out last night and as has already been raised in this parliament, the member for Lockyer—a former senior sergeant of police—the member for Currumbin—a former Commonwealth prosecutor and barrister—and I know full well how important this committee, its reforms and important, tougher laws and more resources for our police are. It was not that long ago that a person, who I will not name—a senior member of this place; not a member of parliament—advised the committee that the methodical way we were going through the report might take another week. Subsequently, it is on the public record that the chair of the committee moved a motion in March asking for a delay until next week. I am happy to table it again.

The chair of the committee moved a motion asking for a week's extension to the arbitrary timeline this government had placed on the committee. We agreed to that extension. Members opposite voted it down. It was only another week. This government proved last night that it was politicising this issue when it blew it up because of an arbitrary timeline—no doubt because before too long members opposite want to see the Premier in a press conference using this report as a prop. We were working through the report. We had asked for an extension and so had the chair, and members opposite blocked the extension.

As has already been aired in this chamber, the committee was only halfway through the report.

Government members interjected.

Mr PURDIE: I am sure those opposite now interjecting would probably want a bit more time to get to the end of the report because at page 91 is the heading 'Building community confidence in the youth justice system'. This is the section towards the end of the report that talks about gagging the media and silencing victims. Members opposite are trying to correct the record on that and rewrite history. It is in the report. They wanted to put it on the traditional media to improve the perception of crime.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Order, members!

Mr PURDIE: It is actually in the report. They did not want to hear from victims. They shut down victims. They tried to silence the media and they tried to silence victims. That is why there was no way I was putting my name to a report to be released when we had not reached the section that glossed over police numbers and gagged the media to improve the perception of crime in this state. I want to get that on the record and I want to get on the record that I feel for the victims of crime who appeared before the committee such as Vyleen White's family, Voice for Victims, the police and people across Queensland who are furious that this government has used the committee as its political plaything.