



Speech By  
**Daniel Purdie**


**MEMBER FOR NINDERRY**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2024

**MOTION**

**Miles Labor Government, Travel Expenses**

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (5.53 pm): Before I talk about what I was going to talk about, I want to respond to the contribution that we have heard from the member for Rockhampton. Up until now I did not realise he was on the listening tour and potentially one of the seagulls who was travelling at 32,000 feet on not one—but two—luxury jets on a listening tour. From what I understand of their itinerary, on Wednesday morning they were flying back over Rocky. Maybe they stopped to drop him off, I am not sure.

On that morning at that time, in Rockhampton our LNP candidate, Donna Kirkland, was hosting a crime forum that I was at. We were listening to victims—real victims on the ground—not the pilots in private jets but victims like the young mum from Rockhampton we heard from. She is a working mum—an upwardly mobile family—with a husband and a seven-year-old son. For two years she scraped and saved for her prized car. She had saved for this car for two years. Shortly after getting it they woke up to find their house had been ransacked and the car had been stolen. They later found out that it had been stolen by a group of juveniles—which is often the case—who were well known to police. By the time they got the car back, it was written off and she is out of pocket \$12,000—\$12,000 for a family living in their dream home with their seven-year-old son. This will take them a long time to repay, if they ever do. The debt on that is something they will have to be pay down over time.

That amount is less than one hour in fuel alone for two private jets to travel this state. Not only is there a financial impact for this poor young mum. She spoke about her seven-year-old son who since that time is too scared to sleep in his own bed. They are dealing with not only the financial cost but also the emotional cost of crime in Rockhampton while this member is apparently on a listening tour on two private jets flying at 32,000 feet.

We heard from a Pacific island gentleman who moved his family to Australia, to Queensland, for a better life. He is a motor mechanic in Rockhampton. Recently, his yard was ransacked by young offenders and there was over \$150,000 in damage caused to vehicles that were in his yard. They did not belong to him, they belonged to customers. He now knows that is not covered by insurance and it will not be covered by compensation from the court because these young offenders were dealt with by the Childrens Court. He is out of pocket \$150,000 and that he cannot pay. This is a business owner in Rockhampton who we were listening to, with our candidate Donna Kirkland, while this member is one of the seagulls on this listening tour on two private jets flying up and down the state.

We also heard from a businesswoman who owns a motorcycle shop up there and who came for the second time. It was only a few weeks ago that she presented at the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee. Emotionally she gave her testimony to that committee which has now been sacked. She came again and told of the impact crime has had on her family business and her employees. If you are the member in Rocky, you do not need two private jets to take you elsewhere when you can come and talk to local victims of crime right in your own electorate.

This brings me to what I wanted to start with 3½ minutes ago: this is emblematic of this Labor government. They care more about how things look than how they are. When no-one is looking, they think they can get away with it. Like their federal colleagues, they have their nose well and truly in the trough. They are burning through the hard-earned taxpayer dollars of Queenslanders faster than a private jet burns through fuel. While they purport to be the battler's champion and to sympathise with the homeless people who are living in tents in the Premier's electorate and fight to save the planet, when no-one is looking they do not care about any of those things.

This takes me back to the member for Bundaberg's contribution. Where was he recently when I was in Bundaberg with our candidate, Bree Watson? He is in this House talking about how there will 'always be more boots on the ground under his government'. Bree Watson and I identified that there are 20 fewer police at the Bundaberg police station alone than what there should be. There are 20 vacancies—that is just at the Bundaberg police station. I have not got time to go through the surrounding police stations. So do not come into this place putting on a tough-on-crime pantomime saying that 'there will always be more boots on the ground under a Labor government' when he should know—if he does not, then he should be listening more—that the police in Bundaberg, like Rocky, are calling for backup. They have had a gutful. Nothing will change until we change the government. Hopefully in a few months time we will have the opportunity to show Labor the door in '24.