




Speech By
Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Record of Proceedings, 17 April 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Senior Citizens' Services; Sunshine Coast, Crime

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (9.58 pm): Helping the elderly and seniors in our community to connect with essential services and support is very important. That is why it is an honour to table a petition on behalf of the LNP candidate for Cairns, Yolonde Entsch, who is doing an outstanding job advocating for her community. The Cairns and District Senior Citizens Association launched this petition after the Council of the Ageing lobbied the member for Cairns, Michael Healy, without success. Yolonde has championed the issue, calling for the installation of an accessible bus stop at 271 Gatton Street, Westcourt to support senior and elder community members.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition requesting the installation of a bus stop and shelter at Westcourt [608](#).

Currently for them to catch a bus to the Senior Citizens Association, which provides support, care and connection, would see them endure long walks in the extreme tropical heat and all sorts of weather. Getting a taxi is not an option that the majority of people can afford, and they should not need to. Cost of living is a huge issue for all areas of our communities, but the senior and elderly face more challenges when they need that support, so public transport with an accessible bus stop matters. It would also help those seniors and elderly living next door at Mercy Place Residential Aged Care. I thank Yolonde and the Cairns community for their hard work to raise this vital issue and request that the transport minister listen, intervene and make it happen to ensure there is a bus stop and bus service supporting our seniors and elderly who rely on the Senior Citizens Association or who live next door in Gatton Street, Westcourt.

I also wish to address the serious issue of crime that is affecting my constituents on the Sunshine Coast. Crime in the streets and unfortunately in home invasions is increasingly hurting many Queenslanders and many people in my electorate. The Labor government, with their weak laws, simply are not listening. We have seen about 322 fewer police than at this time last year. Labor members think crime is a media beat-up, but I am finding that there are more and more home invasions that do not make the media because, unfortunately, they are becoming too common. This is unacceptable. In one incident that happened in my community recently, an elderly couple went into their garage and someone followed them into their garage and invaded their home. In the same street—I believe at two o'clock in the morning—there was another home invasion on the same night and an attempted break and enter. This is being repeated over and over again. Crime has increased: up 90 per cent for unlawful use of motor vehicles in the Maroochydore division; up 29 per cent for unlawful entry; up 19 per cent for other theft; and 132 per cent for assault since Labor came to government. This is unacceptable. This is why we need the right priorities and the right laws under an LNP government. Show Labor the door.

(Time expired)