



Speech By  
**Jim McDonald**


**MEMBER FOR LOCKYER**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 April 2024

## MOTION

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (6.58 pm): It is a privilege to be able to rise to speak to this matter. We entered this process in good faith. The LNP members entered this process in good faith. We—two former sworn police officers and a prosecuting barrister—dedicated our lives to protecting Queenslanders and we committed to this process in good faith. I still hold that hope, but the changing of the voting rules of the committee removes the opportunity for this to be a bipartisan approach. The changing of the voting rules puts in place an opportunity that we have already seen here tonight for this government to be able to do whatever they want to do. They are not listening.

People have been murdered. People have had their lives torn apart. I have personally supported those people. The victims in this matter that we have heard about were never this government's concern. If they were, they would be listening to the recommendations that we are putting up to be included in this report—a report that is not finished. We are only a third of the way through the 60-odd recommendations. The work on the report is only a quarter of the way through.

A learned person the other day said that there would be another 40 hours of work on this committee—40 hours, that is a week's work. I think Queenslanders deserve that. This motion will remove the bipartisan approach of this committee to find fair dinkum solutions for fair dinkum Queenslanders, and Queenslanders deserve better. To the highest level of this government, they are not owning the problem of crime. At the highest level, all the way to the Premier and the department and the minister and the others in this place—as we heard earlier in the debate on the motion—they are not owning the problem.

We asked in a motion the other day that Queensland Police Service statistics be released to correct the factually incorrect statements of the Premier, ministers and other members. That was not supported by this government. The government committee members did not support the motion by our members and the chair to extend the time for this committee. That was not listened to. This should not be a political plaything. It is an absolute disgrace that this government is not listening to Queenslanders. We put up sensible motions that included investigating the reduction of police numbers and the impact that that has had on youth crime and safety and also on victims across Queensland. Crime is at the highest level across the state. They are not made up numbers that are being used to show youth crime is going down. Crime is at the highest level in this state and Queenslanders deserve a bipartisan approach. We moved sensible motions to investigate the changing and weakening of the laws by this government in 2016 to see what has happened and to look at why the growth in serious repeat offenders has continued from 380 some three or four years ago to over 600 now. They are committing more than 56 per cent of crime. We put forward those sensible motions in a bipartisan way and government members voted them down.

Earlier in the piece we came up with a lot of sensible motions—although some were just turning it back to the government. We were asked in our terms of reference to review matters. Most of the motions that have been put forward as suggestions actually ask for further review. Queenslanders deserve better than that. They deserve the solutions that we have heard from witnesses and from experts who told us to remove the detention as a last resort and to unshackle the judiciary. We heard that from experts who know. We heard it from the barrister in the Childrens Court who said, 'We know some kids need to be confined.' The problem is this government has not invested in solutions to keep those young children out of watch houses and they need to invest in the solutions, but they have not.

**Mr Smith** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Bundaberg is warned under the standing orders.

**Mr McDONALD:** This motion is a disgrace. It will change the voting rights of the committee so that it will not be a bipartisan approach.

*(Time expired)*