




Speech By
Melissa McMahon

MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2024

MOTION

Crime Statistics

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (5.22 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amended motion before the House. I note the amended motion refers to the additional police officers that are being delivered and trained under this Miles Labor government. I recall being in the Queensland Police Service under the Newman government when 110 senior police left the service. Combined, thousands of years of policing experience—gone. Coomera police district—closed. That is the LNP's history. The shadow minister started his contribution by saying, 'History will judge you by your actions.' I can tell you the Queensland Police Service judges the LNP by its actions at that time. I was at those send-offs. Those were senior police officers who had so much experience to give. Gone! Just gone!

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order!

Mrs McMAHON: All that service, all that history, gone. Coomera district—where did that go? Gone under them!

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Coomera.

Mrs McMAHON: That is the history. That is the history that the northern Gold Coast will know, that they had a police headquarters—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Coomera!

Mrs McMAHON: But Newman wanted to get rid of it. That is the history of the member over there.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mrs McMAHON: No police headquarters in—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat, please, member. Member for Coomera, you are warned under the standing orders. You have continued to interject even though I have been attempting to get your attention.

Mrs McMAHON: That is the history of how they handle policing on the Gold Coast. I support our police officers and I know this government supports our police officers as well. We are recruiting vast numbers of police officers, far outstripping what they did under the Newman government. I was there at the academy when we had heaps and heaps of recruits there, but do you know what? They all came back and said, 'We have gone to the stations, but there are no cars. We actually can't go out and patrol because they did not give us enough cars. They did not give us enough tasers to actually do our job.'

That is what it is all about: it is all about the numbers and fudging and what they can do to try to present themselves as tough on crime, but they actually do not support the police officers to do the job that they need to do in frontline policing.

It is not just the uniformed police officers—no, no, no—they have a special target in their mind and that is the public servants; in this case, the public servants who support our police officers in the QPS. Hundreds of administrative officers lost their jobs under this lot opposite. Do you know exactly what that means? It means uniformed police officers had to pick up the work of the admin staff. That meant fewer police on the beat because they were more interested in sacking public servants. That is their record on police.

Yes, member for Ninderry, history will judge you by your actions. That is what everyone in my area understands. They know what the LNP stands for. It is about the figures, it is about the slogans, but there is absolutely nothing behind it—nothing behind it. Rolled gold or gold-plated prevention. No-one even knows what that means. They do not even know. They could not point to where that money will be invested.

We on this side are proud of our investments in Project Booyah. I see members over there are happy to get their photos taken with Project Booyah graduates. They are happy to have their photos up on social media—‘Here is Project Booyah’—but what they really want to do is look at ways to lock up these kids. ‘Adult Crime, Adult Time’—does anyone actually know what that means? They talk about—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Honourable members interjected.

Mrs McMAHON: Absolutely! It must be another gold-plated slogan. They talk about unshackling the judiciary. You know what they want to do? Shackle the judiciary by mandating sentences. That is exactly what mandating sentences is. It is actually shackling the judiciary. Which one is it, guys? Which one is it?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Through the chair.

Mrs McMAHON: Is it shackling the judiciary or mandating sentences? Which one is it? It depends on what day of the week it is for the opposition because they cannot make up their minds on any given day. Whatever will play well for the sound bite. That is all that we have from the opposition—sound bites and slogans. No solution to crime. We know they are not interested in preventing crime because their idea of crime prevention is putting more people in jail. That is all they have—building more jails, putting more people in jail. That will do it! That is all they have.