



Speech By  
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**MEMBER FOR TRAEGER**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Youth Crime

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (10.03 pm): I rise to speak once again about the scourge of crime throughout the state, and particularly in the electorate I represent. I am sure on some basis the government, through some lens that I do not particularly understand, believes that they are making inroads or somehow addressing the problem.

As politicians, I think where we really earn our money is ground truthing the advice we get from bureaucrats, public servants and so-called specialists. When we are told that there has been a reduction in crime and that these policies are working we need to ground truth that with what we see on the ground and what our constituents are bringing to our offices.

We need to ask: how many people did I have complaining about this five years ago? Five years ago did I have people sleeping in their caravan in Hughenden facing people stealing their car and tearing off down the road while they were still in the caravan? No, I did not. Years ago did I have people terrorising schools in the streets of Mount Isa for 10 hours? No, I did not. We have a live incident in Charters Towers where an allegedly stolen police vehicle is being chased by a SERT team and five other police cars from Cairns. Did we have that five years ago? No, we did not. Five years ago did we have over the Mount Isa Rodeo weekend five cars stolen and being driven around for hours? No, we did not. We did not have any of this.

The government can pull categories out and say, 'We are making inroads', but this is such a big problem. It needs a significant change in policy. By tinkering at the edges they cannot say that they have made some inroads, especially considering that so much goes unreported now because of the apathy around the effectiveness of police and government helping.

We have tried to work with government throughout this and other terms. Our policies have remained constant on castle law, sending people to the bush—bush sentencing—adult time for adult crimes, mandatory minimum sentencing and the removal of detention as a last resort. We have stayed strong and consistent on those policies. We have tried to work with government by offering effective solutions that result in consequences for these perpetrators. I think one of the most compassionate approaches we can take to many of these youth is to give them a consequence. We can build in vocational training, but give them a consequence for their actions. They do not have that. The longer they remain in that space, the longer we are keeping them away from a meaningful and purposeful life.

It is very frustrating to see this growing problem. The communities from where it is stemming have issues with blue cards and the lack of title deeds to help strengthen those communities. These issues remain unaddressed. The problem will continue to become worse until the government adopt some of the KAP's policies.