




Speech By
Hon. Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2024

MOTION

Crime Statistics

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals) (5.12 pm): It is the Miles government that is taking real and considered action when it comes to tackling crime in Townsville and throughout Queensland. It is absolutely a serious issue and one this government will continue to tackle. Police have already said that there has been a significant reduction in crime in Townsville this year. In fact, the latest statistics from the Queensland Police Service show that the number of unlawful use—

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, member for Currumbin.

Mr STEWART: In fact, the latest statistics from the Queensland Police Service show that the number of unlawful use of motor vehicle offences committed—

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Currumbin.

Mr STEWART: In fact, the latest statistics from the Queensland Police Service show that the number of unlawful use of motor vehicle offences committed by young people has decreased by 30 per cent in Townsville. This is a significant drop, and I want to thank the police in Townsville for the fantastic work they do when it comes to catching people who do the wrong thing. Any instance of crime is one too many, and as a government we will continue to back the root causes of crime as well as hold people who do the wrong thing to account.

The government is supporting police and the community with a \$1.28 billion comprehensive community safety plan, and our Community Safety Bill is before parliament right now. Our plan includes an additional 900 police personnel and a record \$4 billion budget for the Queensland police and community safety portfolio. This is a top priority for the Miles Labor government, and we saw that when one of the first things Premier Steven Miles did when he got in the job was announce a dedicated police helicopter in Townsville. We are seeing this make a real difference when it comes to tracking youth offenders who do the wrong thing. The Miles Labor government will always back our police with the resources they need, and I am proud to be part of a government that backs community safety and our Police Service.

We are also continuing to invest in early intervention to ensure young people stay on the right track. This includes things like Project Booyah, Transition 2 Success and the Johnathan Thurston Academy. I am also really proud about the Putting Queensland Kids First plan. This is something I have been pushing for for a long time because I know how important it is to get that best start in life. This

plan is backed with a \$501.9 million investment from the Miles government. We want to give kids the best start in life, and this is so important to making sure young people get the best start in life and get on the right track.

Tackling crime from all angles is important. We want to stop crime from happening before it occurs, but if people do the wrong thing they certainly must be held to account. We are giving the courts the tools they need to do that, and I expect them to meet the community's expectations. Contrast this with the LNP who announced a four-word slogan void of any detail. The LNP have had four years to introduce a community safety bill to parliament, and of course they have not. In fact we know what the LNP really think about this issue thanks to the LNP's shadow police spokesperson, the member for Ninderry, who said in an interview, and I quote for the benefit of the House—

We were hoping to pick up a number of seats off the back of crime. And we should have. I was the Shadow Police Minister, and we didn't. So that is essentially all on me. We didn't pick up any of the seats we wanted to on crime, and I was the guy supposed to be selling our message.

That is their message. We also know the LNP were supposed to have a comprehensive crime plan announced, which we are still waiting for. On 8 January 2021—that is right: 2021—the member for Burdekin said that the community could expect a crime plan in the next six months. It has been 1,321 days since that announcement but all that has been released since then is a slogan—no substance, just a slogan.

We know the opposition do not back our Queensland Police Service. Last time they were in government, they wanted to sell the Townsville police academy. I am happy to tell the House that we are investing \$100 million into a new Townsville police academy at the old North Queensland Cowboys home ground. Do you know what those opposite wanted to do? They wanted to turn that site into a harness track. Once again, they refused to back the Queensland Police Service. That is their record in black and white, there for everyone to see. The Miles government will not back down when it comes to community safety. It will always be a top priority for us because people deserve to feel safe in their own homes wherever they are.