




Speech By
Adam Baillie

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

Record of Proceedings, 13 March 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Townsville, Youth Crime

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (9.27 pm): It has been a challenging start to the year for many Queenslanders, with flooding up north and cyclones down south. Many Queenslanders are still cleaning up after floodwater inundation and waiting on power to be restored or roads and bridges to be repaired. Thankfully, the weather has moved on and recovery is underway. Sadly, in Townsville we are still living through another disaster. It is the disaster known as Labor's youth crime crisis. For years we have been living through this disaster with more and more residents being impacted. The structural, financial and psychological impact will take years to recover from. Since being elected, the rain may have stopped but the waters are still rising on youth crime.

Over the last few weeks alone, we have seen convoys of vehicles being recklessly driven through suburbs like Hermit Park and Cosgrove with no regard for property or public safety. Under the previous Labor government, this disaster was denied. We were told that it was a media beat-up or that it was not that big of a deal. We disagreed then and we disagree now.

Since being elected late last year, we made Adult Crime, Adult Time law before Christmas as we committed, we have appointed an Expert Legal Panel to monitor and advise of further changes to strengthen our laws even more going forward, we have opened up the courts to reporters and put the rights of victims ahead of offenders, and we have made sure detention is no longer to be used as a last resort.

We have announced additional funding to open up two new courtrooms, which will reduce the wait time for victims to see justice carried out. We have begun work already on early intervention programs by locking in funding for local after-hours programs like the Garbutt Youth Hub. We have given the judges the ability to hand down sentences in line with community expectations. We have given our police more tools they need to do their job as well as Queensland's first dedicated rapid response unit, the Flying Squad. The Flying Squad has already been to Townsville once this year, resulting in 34 juveniles charged with 153 offences.

Our work is not done. We know it and our community knows it. We understand that our community is yearning for change, and so are we. I look forward to the day we can move to the recovery phase with regard to Labor's youth crime crisis. It took 10 years to get to this point and it will take time to recover. The impacts of the storm have not passed. We are still very much in disaster response phase, but we will end Labor's youth crime crisis.