




Speech By
Hon. Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Youth Crime, Data

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (10.06 am): At last year's election, and in the years leading up to that election, the LNP made a commitment to the people of Queensland that we would tackle Labor's youth crime crisis, make offenders accountable for their actions and do everything possible to keep Queensland communities safe. I can report to the House that, as a consequence of the measures introduced last year through our Making Queensland Safer Laws, early indications show some progress has been made in combating this criminal behaviour.

After a decade of exploding crime rates under the Labor government's soft-on-crime approach we may now have started to turn a corner. The latest police data indicates early reductions across key offences, including break-ins, stolen cars, robberies and woundings. These figures reveal there were 453 fewer stolen vehicles across the state over summer—December, January and February—compared to the previous summer. This amounts to an 8.2 per cent reduction in the incidence of unlawful use of a motor vehicle. The data also reveals there were 1,033 fewer unlawful entries in Queensland, an 8.4 per cent reduction. Across the state there has been a 16.9 per cent reduction in wounding offences compared to the previous reporting period, while the number of robberies has also decreased by 4.8 per cent.

While the level of crime is still far too high and there is a lot more work that needs to be done, the signs suggest Adult Crime, Adult Time is starting to deliver the change that Queensland needs and that Queenslanders demanded. This sends a strong message about the consequences for actions, as well as furnishing police with the strong laws they need to hold young offenders accountable. People who demonstrate a blatant disregard for the law and the rights of others by committing serious offences are now having to face the consequences for their actions.

For a decade Labor ignored the desperate calls for backup by our police and communities right across Queensland who were under siege from offenders thumbing their nose at the law. There is more work to do and this week the government will be introducing legislation to give effect to our promise to review existing laws and add additional appropriate offences as part of our Making Queensland Safer Laws. Among these offences will include ramming police and emergency service vehicles. It should be noted that last year there were 53 instances of ramming of police vehicles—that is one a week—endangering the lives of officers who are there to serve and protect the community. This new offence will be one of more than a dozen to be introduced this week.

The opposition will have the chance to nail its colours to the mast, right its previous wrongs and indicate to the people of Queensland just where it stands in relation to criminal behaviour and holding offenders to account. Last year, this bitterly divided and leaderless rabble was dragged kicking and screaming to support our Making Queensland Safer Laws. Soon they will have a second chance to demonstrate just where they stand: on the side of criminals or on the side of victims and Queenslanders. I call on the opposition to drop its partisan faction-based stand and do something for the people of Queensland: support these laws and support our police and communities demanding them.