



Speech By

Hon. Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Youth Crime

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (10.09 am): After a decade of decline, the Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland. We are delivering safer communities by delivering on our commitment to give police the laws and resources they need to turn the tide on the youth crime crisis created by those opposite. I am pleased to provide an update to the House on the largest, most unrelenting crime crackdowns ever conducted in Cairns and Townsville. The locally-led, strategic, protracted, targeted policing activities have resulted in almost 1,100 offenders being charged with more than 3½ thousand offences—and we are not done yet. Criminals have been put on notice, especially those young criminals who are causing the most harm to our community. In total, 27 serious repeat youth offenders have been arrested on 232 charges across both districts. They are not kids who have simply made a mistake or just stolen a Kit Kat, these are the worst of the worst, including 19 serious repeat offenders in Far North Queensland on 156 charges and eight serious repeat offenders in North Queensland on 76 charges.

One of Queensland's most wanted youth criminals is now behind bars: a teenager who has been charged with almost 50 offences. Police allege he is responsible for a wave of home break-ins and car thefts. He is now facing tough new penalties under Adult Crime, Adult Time legislation introduced by the Crisafulli government. Another offender in Townsville was charged with 12 offences committed across four suburbs. These serious repeat offenders place the most demand on police, not to mention the impact they have on communities and individuals they target. The high cost, both financially and psychologically, can take years to recover, if at all. That is why police, during this surge, have made it a priority to target these individuals. Every time one of these repeat offenders is taken off the streets the entire community benefits. It means fewer stolen cars tearing through our neighbourhoods, fewer families waking up to find their homes broken into and fewer businesses forced to clean up after yet another crime. These arrests are not about statistics, they are about people: parents, children and the elderly who simply want to be safe in their communities. Our police should be congratulated on the critical work they have been undertaking. However, the job is not done. While those opposite hope and pray crime will rise, we will continue to act.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I rose to a point of order previously this morning with respect to your ruling around ministerial statements and referred to your instructions to the House that they be temperate in terms of his language. I submit to you that the Minister for Police is not observing or acting consistent with your ruling in terms of his language. I ask you to remind him of his obligations to not be in contempt of your rulings.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, it is a ministerial statement so I would remind you to keep your language temperate.

Mr PURDIE: The job is not done. We are seeing that consequences for actions and harsh penalties are acting as a strong deterrent to criminal activity. Every resident deserves the right to feel safe in their home and secure in their community. That is the most basic expectation of government and policing, and we are delivering. Police will continue to work relentlessly, both on the street and behind the scenes, to ensure those who cause the most harm are held responsible. Community safety is not negotiable and our commitment is clear: we will do what it takes to restore peace and security to our streets.