




Speech By
Hon. Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 9 December 2025

MOTION

CFMEU, Administration

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (11.38 am): To pick up on the point of the previous speaker, I understand that she said they furiously support the motion before the House today. Our point goes to the duplicitous nature of those opposite. The question is: how did they vote last week at the Labor conference? How did they vote behind closed doors as opposed to how they vote in the chamber today? You cannot do one thing and then say the other. History is not on their side. I have talked before about a decade of those opposite watering down youth justice laws—and they are now trying to rewrite history on that—which led to the youth crime crisis. They did the same thing when they ran a protection racket for their mates in the CFMEU and we saw violence and intimidation explode on construction sites right across Queensland. It was not just in MOUs that they signed with Workplace Health and Safety and others, which essentially disempowered police to take action, but they changed legislation.

I quickly want to tell a story that happened in Caloundra leading up to 2020—the construction of the federal-state government funded Caloundra interchange upgrade, a billion dollar project. The CFMEU were, night after night, closing that site down, costing taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars a night every time they shut it down. Police were called. Late-night calls from CFMEU officials were made to senior ministers, and maybe some of those phone records might come out in this commission of inquiry. Police charged them with trespass. What did those opposite do? In 2020, on the back of a corrective services bill, they changed the law to protect their mates. They changed the trespass laws, allowing for CFMEU officials not to be charged with trespass when they walk onto these sites.

They cannot come in here now and rewrite history. We know they are trying to do that on youth crime. They watered down the law and youth crime spiralled out of control. They watered down the law to protect their mates in the CFMEU. Now what is being exposed in the commission of inquiry is dire. What we are hearing day after day at the commission of inquiry is dire. For those opposite to come in here now and say, as the member for Waterford just did, that they furiously support our motion, they need to talk about how they voted behind closed doors. Are they in support of the motion moved at the Labor Party conference just the other week to basically reinstate the CFMEU, re-empower them and get them back to where they were?

In stark contrast, like we are with youth crime, like we are with crime on construction sites, we trust our police. We are giving them the resources they need to crack down on crime and safety, whether it is in communities or construction sites, and we will continue to do that. History shows those opposite watered down the law, they signed MOUs to disempower our police, and we are taking a vastly different approach.