




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Community Safety

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.13 pm): I rise today to speak about safety. Every Queenslanders deserves to feel safe and to be safe. Community safety is a paramount concern right across Queensland. In October last year, Queenslanders voted for a change approach, albeit from a slogan that those opposite introduced. David Crisafulli told Queenslanders, particularly those in Townsville and Cairns, that crime would drop by Christmas. Well, it did not. The people of Townsville—

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to the member for Gladstone using correct titles.

Ms Boyd: Frivolous.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member for Pine Rivers, you are warned under the standing orders. I will not tolerate commentary while I am taking advice or making a ruling. Member for Gladstone, you did refer to the Premier by his personal name. I remind you of the need to refer to members by their correct titles.

Mr BUTCHER: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The people of Townsville were told the LNP's new laws would see crime drop across Queensland. It has not. In fact, crime in Townsville is rising, with 7,555 crimes recorded in the first two months of 2025. That is more than 200 over the same period last year. Even with the flooding event, the region recorded 126 unlawful use of motor vehicle offences in Townsville in the month of February alone. That is more than in January and a 12 per cent increase in February compared to the same time last year. What do the members for Mundingburra, Townsville and Thuringowa have to say about this spike in crime? What do those members have to say to their communities about the broken promises made by their leader? The LNP and their botched laws have failed Queenslanders.

Not only are these laws failing Queenslanders but also this week we have heard how the LNP scrapped the Independent Ministerial Advisory Council under the cover of Cyclone Alfred, reminiscent of the days when the Newman government—some of the same people are still sitting opposite—axed the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee under the cover of darkness. They are doing it again. The IMAC was an advisory body set up to support victims, made up of experts and people with lived experience.

This LNP government have no shame at all when it comes to talking to the people of Far North Queensland. It makes you wonder why they scrapped this advisory body. Is it as retribution because that body did not agree with their signature laws of Adult Crime, Adult Time? The Premier rushed through these laws, despite experts like IMAC and many others saying it would have unintended consequences. Guess what? It certainly has had unintended consequences. The LNP are not interested in listening to the experts, and they certainly are not interested in keeping Queenslanders safe, particularly in Far North Queensland—in Townsville and in Cairns.