



Speech By **Hermann Vorster**

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

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ADJOURNMENT

Burleigh, Community Safety

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burleigh—LNP) (9.10 pm): I learned a lot from my father. One of the phrases he would often turn out when I presented him with a challenge, maybe something I encountered at school or in the workplace, was: never attribute to malice what can be best explained by stupidity. I think the greater sin in political life is not those two things; it is most certainly ambivalence. In my community of Burleigh, the former Labor government was ambivalent to the concerns that plagued this very special part of the Gold Coast.

I often think about a second colloquialism, which is: the standard you walk past is the standard you set. We had a government that was prepared to walk past the homeless sleeping in sand dunes. We had a government that was prepared to walk past those struggling with mental health issues and without the resources to get well. We had a government that was prepared to walk past louts defecating and urinating in public. In fact, they not only walked past it but also facilitated it by watering down laws that were there to set standards.

On this side of the House, we often talk about 10 years of decline. My community has felt 10 years of Labor decline—the decline in standards which has allowed this antisocial culture to plague this beautiful part of the Gold Coast. On this side of the House we take a different view. Our view is simple: there should be consequences for action and those who engage in behaviour that offends standards should be discouraged from doing so, because if you do not you give tacit endorsement to those behaviours.

Burleigh has been beset by a plague of antisocial behaviour. Our traders have had enough. The situation has become so bad that young women now feel too afraid to work a shift in Burleigh. I am proud to say that our government is going to get on top of this problem. Our police minister has already said that we will be looking at this. We will deliver into Burleigh more CCTV, extra police resources and a police beat. On 22 October we will be convening a round table where my community can send an unequivocal message to our government that there must be a reversal of Labor's soft laws so that we can restore everything that makes Burleigh beautiful. Not only are there consequences for action but there will be a reason to return to Burleigh.