




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Youth Crime

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (2.42 pm) I rise on behalf of the electorate of Mundingburra, the people of Townsville and the people of North Queensland to talk on the crime crisis which has engulfed North Queensland and Far North Queensland. Just over half an hour ago in this chamber, we heard the member for Woodridge say that he was going to address the greatest challenge facing Queenslanders. Like everybody else, I was waiting with bated breath. Was it going to be the cost-of-living crisis? Was it going to be the health crisis? Was it going to be the housing crisis? Was it going to be the crime crisis? He addressed none of those—absolutely nothing. It was the ‘incompetence of the LNP Crisafulli government’. Let me tell you what that ‘incompetence’ looks like.

Yesterday, the front page of the *Courier-Mail* said, ‘Youth crime rates plunge’. It is true; the new figures do show that Adult Crime, Adult Time is starting to have an impact. In Townsville, we have seen those green shoots, in the offending data and in court cases. Approximately two hours ago, the officer-in-charge of the Townsville CIB, Detective Senior Sergeant Chris Caswell, spoke to the media in relation to recent property crime arrests and charges in Townsville. Since 1 April 2025, Townsville police have charged 17 people with 125 property crime offences. Townsville police charged three teenagers with 81 offences—I will say that again—three teenagers were charged with 81 property crime offences alleged to have occurred over the long weekend. That is an average of 27 charges each. But crime is still down under this LNP Crisafulli government. These youth offenders will be charged under our new Making Queensland Safer Laws. They committed an adult crime and they will receive adult time.

This progress comes on the back of the changes we have made and the commitments we have delivered on. We committed to putting in place the first tranche of the Making Queensland Safer Laws before Christmas, and we delivered on that promise. We committed to appointing an expert legal panel to advise on the next tranche, and we delivered on that promise. We said that we would give our police the resources, the laws and the tools they needed to do their job, and we are continuing to deliver on that promise. We are making Jack’s Law, allowing our police to use metal detectors to combat knife crime, permanent and we are expanding it to all public spaces. We introduced the new State Flying Squad made up of additional permanent police positions, so we are not pulling and stripping officers from other units to conduct that work.

We are seeing the benefits of that support with our police. We have a healthy QPS recruitment pipeline. People now want to join the Queensland Police Service because, for the first time in a long time, they have a government who backs them. But we are not finished. We are continuing to do the work needed to fulfil our commitment to fewer victim numbers and a safer state. Our early intervention programs will be introduced to put an end to the cycle of crime—the cycle that those opposite created.

We know it will take more than six months to unravel 10 years of Labor's chaos and crisis, but to that we say, 'Bring it on!' With nearly 30 years of service with the Queensland Police Service under my belt, I have seen firsthand how the weakening by Labor of the youth crime laws created that chaos and crisis, and Townsville was the first city to call it out.

Those opposite created a generation of untouchables. Those opposite created the youth crime crisis, and now those opposite will watch us clean up their mess. We will not stop. We will do whatever it takes to reduce victim numbers and make Queensland a safer place.