



Speech By  
**John Barounis**


**MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2025

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Maryborough CBD, Antisocial Behaviour**

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (2.52 pm): I rise today to address an issue that has consumed my community of Maryborough since I came to office in October 2024—that is, antisocial behaviour. I had not even been sworn into parliament and already I was hosting and addressing a maddened community, sick and tired of this antisocial behaviour happening under our noses within the CBD area. The CBD area is the heart and soul of our town—a town that prides itself on its rich heritage and tourism. However, tourism has dropped because business owners and the community are terrified. Business owners lock their doors while locals shop.

I would like to ask: is this the way a community should find acceptable to live? Apparently for the previous 10 years, yes, it was. The former Labor government and their member did not listen to the community. Close to 700 people attended the town hall meeting in November 2024. There was fury coming from the community—fury and frustration—and their message was very clear: clean up the town. I listened. We doorknocked the businesses and listened to their stories as we wanted to hear firsthand of the issues being faced. Yes, it was confronting, but it was real, it was accurate and it was disgusting what was happening in the CBD of Maryborough.

I ask: is it acceptable to have people bashing innocent shoppers so that they themselves can be returned to prison? Is it satisfactory to allow these antisocial people to defecate in the middle of a busy street in daylight? Is it acceptable to let people conduct drug deals in broad daylight outside the bank? Is it acceptable for people to sleep and urinate outside shopfronts and for shop owners to have to clean up these people's messes before entering their own businesses? Is it reasonable for the community to all know and openly talk about a 'drug boat' in our Mary River that produces and supplies drugs in town? Nothing is being done to stop this from happening. If we remove this said drug boat from the river, this will eliminate a lot of the drug fuelled antisocial behaviour issues that we are facing as a community. These are just a few examples of what has been happening with antisocial behaviour in the CBD of Maryborough. On my watch, none of these behaviours are acceptable.

I am pleased to say that our Premier, the Hon. David Crisafulli, listened and, more importantly, he acted. Our Premier visited Maryborough, spoke to business owners and acted. At least three roundtable meetings are going to be held to discuss this issue. Members from our community, relevant departments and stakeholders are going to be there. A taskforce has been set up and finally a sigh of relief can be felt from business owners and the community within my CBD. Police can now be seen on the streets, saturating the CBD area, shopping centres and parks, making the community feel safe again.

Maryborough is a proud community, and this is why I will not stop until all of my community are safe and feeling pride in their town again, too. With the Crisafulli LNP government they will feel safe, they will feel trusted and they will feel listened to. They know that we are going to do the right thing

rather than what has happened in the past for the last 10 years—thanks to the Crisafulli LNP government.