



Speech By
John Barounis

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Maryborough CBD, Antisocial Behaviour

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (2.34 pm): I rise today to inform the House of the hard work and dedication that the Crisafulli LNP government has committed to addressing and removing antisocial behaviour that has plagued the Maryborough CBD for far too long. In November last year I organised a community meeting at the Maryborough Town Hall. Over 400 angry and concerned residents and business owners filled that hall. They came seeking answers and wanting to know what I was going to do to fix the situation. This was a problem I had inherited from the previous Labor member and government—a problem that I was determined to address. I made it clear that I will campaign directly to the Premier to bring our community back together and restore safety and confidence in our CBD.

The Premier listened and we acted. In July this year Premier Crisafulli attended the first roundtable meeting in Maryborough. That meeting brought together representatives from a range of government departments, support services and small business owners. The Premier and his team worked with me to develop a strong, compassionate and practical plan—one that involved multiple government agencies and community support services. Multiple agencies are involved in this response plan: the Department of Housing and Public Works, Queensland Health, Queensland Police Service, the Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, Queensland Ambulance Service, Queensland Corrective Services, Fraser Coast Regional Council and NGO service providers within the Maryborough community. This plan was not about pushing the problem elsewhere. It was about addressing the root causes, supporting those who need it and restoring safety and confidence for everyone in our CBD.

This week the first stage of the plan has been implemented. While much of this work may not yet be visible to the broader community, there is a significant coordinated effort behind the scenes to ensure that individuals exhibiting antisocial behaviour are supported and their needs are properly addressed, while at the same time making it clear that unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated. I would like to thank the Premier, David Crisafulli, for listening to my community, backing me as the member and following through on his commitment to make Maryborough safer. Also, I thank the police minister, the Hon. Dan Purdie, and the local police force. This is what leaders who listen and a strong community partnership can achieve.