



Speech By  
**Natalie Marr**


**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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Record of Proceedings, 29 April 2025

## **MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

### **Thuringowa Electorate, Anzac Day; Community Safety**

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (2.52 pm): I rise today to address this House on matters that go to the very core of what it means to live safely and securely in our state—community safety and law enforcement. These are not just policies. They are the foundation of public confidence and the peace of mind of Queensland families who deserve nothing less than to feel safe in their homes, on their streets and during the community events that bring us together. Just days ago during the solemn and deeply respected Anzac Day parade in Thuringowa—a day that unites us in honouring our past and reflecting on the values of courage, sacrifice and unity—a disturbing situation unfolded. A stolen vehicle that had already been harassing and endangering the community throughout the morning, was reported rampaging dangerously close to the Anzac march. This was not just any street; it was a road lined with schoolchildren, families, Scouts, veterans, serving personnel and proud residents. Our entire community was there to pay their respects—not to fear for their lives. The behaviour of these thugs is unacceptable.

As the parade participants stood assembled ready to march the threat became imminent but in that moment of crisis, our Queensland police officers acted without hesitation. Their professionalism and decisive actions ensured everyone was removed from the roadway and taken to safety. Supporting them from above was the police helicopter which played a critical, strategic role in tracking the vehicle. This coordination allowed officers on the ground to act swiftly with full awareness and to bring the incident under control. This was a textbook demonstration of modern policing at its best—technology and frontline expertise working seamlessly together. Harm was prevented.

On behalf of my community and all Queenslanders, I extend my deepest gratitude to the Queensland Police Service. Their commitment to public safety continues to make a meaningful difference every single day. I also want to commend the organisers and the people of Thuringowa who, in the face of fear, frustration and disruption, showed nothing but calm, respect and unity. An alternate parade route was found and the event continued. Since Anzac Day, I can report that 17 individuals have been charged with 125 offences, including the three juveniles who were responsible for 81 of those charges.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 231 in relation to the anticipation of debate. There are a number of bills on the *Notice Paper* which go to matters that the member is traversing in her speech. She is alluding to offences which could be included in the list of offences there and I ask you to urge her to ensure her contribution does not anticipate debate on the bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Thank you. I will take some advice. Member for Thuringowa, you are free to speak about the matters you have been mentioning but you must not do so in reference to, or in anticipation of, debate of the bill which is upon the table of the House in respect of these matters, so I ask you to be mindful of that when you continue your contribution.

**Ms MARR:** I will be very mindful, thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. This is a clear indication that the rule of law is prevailing and the police are not merely reacting to crime; they are dismantling the networks and the individuals behind it. We are also beginning to see the results of our efforts statewide, with a recent decline in offences across Queensland. In Townsville, there has been a small decrease in the unlawful use of a motor vehicle when compared to the same time as last year. These are encouraging signs but let me be absolutely clear: although we welcome this progress, one short-term gain does not mean our long-term work is over. We are coming off the back of a high crime rate from the former Labor government.

In Townsville, we have seen the consequences of legislative weakness. What began as opportunistic crime, escalated under Labor. The weakening of the Youth Justice Act by the former Labor government has given a generation of youth offenders the impression that there are no consequences. Under the former Labor government we experienced more offences, more violence and a community left feeling vulnerable, even under siege. We will not hide when times are tough—like those opposite did—while the people of Townsville continue to beg for the right to be safe in their homes and on their streets. They were told it was a beat-up, yet every night the fear of lying in bed waiting for a thug to enter your home, sometimes with a weapon, and demand your keys, kept people awake. Our Making Queensland Safer laws and the first tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time laws was our strong commitment to our community. We will continue to listen and continue to be tough on crime, to be firm on accountability and consequences for actions and to act with the strength and determination that Queenslanders expect and deserve. We will not shy away when the path gets hard and we will not back down in the face of challenge or confrontation because this government is committed to restoring order, rebuilding trust and ensuring every Queenslanders in every community can live without fear and is putting victims first. This remains non-negotiable.