




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

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ADJOURNMENT

Kurwongbah Electorate, Crime

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (9.00 pm): I rise tonight to wholeheartedly thank the legendary members of our Queensland Police Service who have become a regular and welcome presence around our Narangba Valley shops. I am proud to have supported the recent Coffee with a Cop events at Stellarossa Narangba and Valley Coffee, where many conversations have been struck up with locals and an eye kept on the students from the nearby high school where many kids are stranded waiting for buses on Wednesdays when they finish early. I know that those hardworking QPS members are keen for Translink to come to the party with new bus times to transport these students home, as are school staff, parents and Kangaroos Bus Lines. I will come back to that in a minute.

Since the election of the LNP government over a year ago, my office has received more complaints about crime—not just youth crime, though it is definitely in the mix—than in any other year I can recall during my time as a member of this place. I am sure the Premier is desperately hoping that it is the sole result of population growth and, to be fair, there is a lot of that in my patch. As I have mentioned before in this place, I have seen for myself that it is not a reflection of the local police, who have always worked hard and continue to do so, so it begs the question: why has Premier Crisafulli not fixed the crime problem as he promised to do over a year ago? Is it because, no matter how hard the police work, there will always be crime? Is it because, no matter how hard the police work, there will always be parents who could and should keep a better eye on their children? Is it because, no matter how hard the police work, there will always be people with substance abuse issues, with difficult behavioural diagnoses or with not a lot of hope in their lives?

Labor values favour early intervention and prevention programs, and crime rates were coming down in the majority of areas under our former government—and we counted all of the categories. The LNP talked a big talk: they were going to get so many more police officers and they were going to sort out the kids at risk of offending behaviours with specialist schools and camps. But not everyone wants to be a police officer, and we know that the LNP is not big on immigration. We might be lucky to hold on to all of the teachers we have in schools now if the LNP can negotiate with the QTU for a positive outcome through a pay rise and the EBA. I have put forward the argument that in my electorate we would have a little less crime and a little less intimidation in our Narangba Valley community if the high school bus issue could get sorted out. That is just one meaningful thing we could do. I reckon it would be a lot cheaper than locking up a kid who falls into a life of crime just because they could not get home after school.

The ball is in the court of the transport minister. He knows the issue. Instead of politically charged responses, he could just sort out the problem. In my community, Kangaroo Bus Lines—

A government member interjected.

Mr KING: This issue, for whoever said that, has only been going for about six months. Kangaroo Bus Lines, Narangba Valley State High School, local businesses and all of the community want this to happen. It just seems to be Translink and the minister who runs Translink that is holding up the issue.