



Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 17 September 2025

MOTION

No Confidence in Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (6.02 pm): When I saw the Premier rise to speak to the amendment moved by the member for Whitsunday I thought, 'Oh, here we go. There will be a full-throated defence of the member for Currumbin. He is going to absolutely back in his youth justice minister.' I do not think he said one word about supporting the member for Currumbin. Does that not tell you everything you need to know about the future of the member for Currumbin?

An opposition member interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: That is exactly right. I take that interjection. The Premier was very clever, sending in the member for Whitsunday to do that full-throated defence and move that amendment, but the Premier could not actually bring himself to say one nice thing about the member for Currumbin—not one nice thing! I am absolutely astounded that in this House tonight—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Member for Waterford, I am sorry to interrupt you, but most of the noise in the chamber is coming from your own members. Order, members on my left.

Ms FENTIMAN: I cannot believe it. We have a motion of no confidence, which is a very serious motion to be moved in this place, and the Premier rises to speak on this motion and he cannot say one thing to defend his youth justice minister, the minister that he needs to keep him in the job. I think tonight we actually do not need to say any more on this motion because the Premier has said it all. In the five full minutes that he had to get up there and show the people of Queensland he has faith and confidence in his youth justice minister, he failed to do so. I do not think there is anything more that I can add, but I will.

What I have found really interesting this week is that the Minister for Youth Justice has come in here and claimed that Labor is attacking her and that we are only attacking her because we cannot attack her record. The hilarious thing about that is the attacks are coming from the LNP government. They are coming from her cabinet colleagues or perhaps some of those ambitious members on the backbench.

What we have seen to date from the member for Currumbin is that her leadership style appears, if we can believe what is coming from the LNP government and all of the leaks, to be similar to her driving style. This is a youth justice minister who proudly talks about failing her driving test nine times, and if you have not bothered to watch *Australia's Worst Driver* and the contribution from the member for Currumbin, I suggest you do so.

That is not the only test. There are many more. Shall we go through the list of nine fails that are on the member for Currumbin's ministerial record? They include: appointing an LNP-aligned barrister and spouse of an LNP staffer to chair the Expert Legal Panel; refusing to release the findings of the

expert panel, despite stakeholders and victims calling for her to do so; and presiding over five prison escapes in one month—that is right, five prison escapes in one month. We have already heard about parking in a disabled parking bay in Cairns. There was the failure to address capacity issues at the new Cairns Youth Detention Centre. She palmed off the first Making Queensland Safer bill to the new Attorney-General, even though it amended the Youth Justice Act. She presided over staff shortages at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre. She allowed new contracts with gag clauses for youth justice community organisations. Here we go—back to Campbell Newman! She has also failed to release a detailed youth justice workforce plan.

It is clear that she has lots of Queenslanders to apologise to for her incompetence and, clearly, plenty of traffic victims on the Gold Coast in the 2000s. That much is clear. It also seems there are 11 former ministerial staffers she needs to apologise to. Eleven staff have left in 321 days. That is an attrition rate of around one every 29 days. The fact that the Premier has not stood up to defend the youth justice minister or answer any questions in a media conference means that he is okay with all of this. He is setting the standard. He talks and talks about accountability but is found absolutely wanting.

(Time expired)