



Speech By  
**Hon. Steve Minnikin**

**MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 February 2026

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Secure Communities Partnership Program**

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (10.12 am): The Crisafulli government is committed to ending Labor's decade-long soft-on-crime approach, and we are a government that is delivering exactly what we say we will do. The Crisafulli government is tackling crime against small and family businesses, their staff and customers by delivering our \$40 million Secure Communities Partnership Program election commitment.

I announced the outcomes of round 1 of the program which allocated \$9.6 million in projects in October last year. Round 1 saw 42 projects funded including 35 in regional Queensland. That is 42 projects that will deter crime and improve safety throughout local small and family business precincts. Whether that is the Fraser Coast, Rocky, Townsville, Ingham or across Far North Queensland, the Crisafulli government is delivering projects that provide additional security to reduce crime against Queensland's small and family businesses and, importantly, their staff. I can advise the House that we have now ticked over the half a million mark. There are now more than 508,000 small and family businesses across Queensland—in excess of half a million. This is a significant milestone.

We have a plan to support the growing number of small and family businesses that create jobs and contribute to local economies across the state. That also means reversing Labor's soft-on-crime approach. We know that even after a decade of decline those opposite are still hopelessly divided when it comes to crime prevention measures. Our program supports proactive crime prevention measures such as lighting, bollards, lockable fences and improved perimeter security and CCTV. I am pleased that local governments are getting on with the job of delivering for small and family businesses in partnership with the Crisafulli government.

Round 2 of the Secure Communities Partnership Program opened in November last year, beginning with funding available directly to eligible small and family businesses. I was pleased to be in the Wide Bay region with the member for Maryborough to launch round 2. Under this tranche, eligible small businesses are able to apply directly for funding for projects between \$5,000 and \$20,000 to implement crime prevention measures.

There will also be further funding for councils to deliver safer local business precincts. I have written to mayors across Queensland to advise them of this opportunity opening in coming weeks. Once again, this program supports a range of crime prevention measures including things I mentioned earlier—lighting, bollards, security fencing and improved CCTV et cetera. We want to make sure that it is not just for the employers but also for their staff.

By ending Labor's decade-long soft-on-crime approach we are supporting small and family business owners, their staff and customers with improved safety. We are working to foster a more welcoming environment that encourages additional foot traffic and consumer confidence. This is another example of how the Crisafulli government is indeed putting small and family businesses first.