



Speech By  
**Hon. Daniel Purdie**

**MEMBER FOR NINDERRY**

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Record of Proceedings, 3 March 2026

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Community Safety**

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (10.13 am): The Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland. We are delivering what Queenslanders voted for: safety where you live, with a 7.2 per cent reduction in victims, fewer stolen cars, fewer homes and businesses broken into, fewer robberies and more police on the front line, but there is more work to do. Before the election we committed to ending Labor's soft-on-crime approach. That includes being soft on drugs and antisocial behaviour.

Labor's three-strikes drug policy is an absolute failure. The latest Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission national wastewater report shows that drug use in Queensland is on the rise. In 2024, more methylamphetamine was consumed than in any other year; cocaine and heroin use is the highest it has ever been. Why? It is because Labor allowed drug use to flourish. Under Labor's failed diversion scheme, offenders could be caught with dangerous drugs like fentanyl and heroin multiple times and still avoid meaningful consequences. This must end. We need to send a clear message that taking illicit drugs is not acceptable or safe. To see this we only need to look at the US, where states are now frantically trying to undo disastrous drug policies responsible for a huge spike in addiction, crime and ultimately overdose deaths. The Crisafulli government is determined to not let that happen in Queensland.

Today we will introduce the illicit drug enforcement and diversion framework, which restores deterrence and consequences for dangerous drug offending. There will be no more three-strikes policy. Labor's catch-and-release program was an embarrassment. You cannot be tough on crime if you are soft on drugs. The bill will also target antisocial behaviour, protecting Queensland cities and towns under siege. Labor's legacy of weak laws left police powerless. The member for Cairns was so concerned about it that he wrote to me just last year. I promised him the Crisafulli government would act and we would deliver on that promise to him and to all Queenslanders. I just hope the member for Cairns will support our solution and not be beholden to the Labor left, because we know it is regional Queensland that has been hit the hardest. This cannot continue.

The Crisafulli government is taking decisive action, introducing designated business and community precincts and giving police strengthened powers to deter, detect and respond to antisocial behaviour. Like in safe night precincts, police will be able to issue banning orders, prohibiting people who behave in a disorderly, offensive, threatening or violent way or who disrupt the peaceful passage or enjoyment of others in the precinct. The Crisafulli government committed to giving police the laws and resources they need to do their job and to make Queensland safer, and we are delivering on that commitment.

Finally, while I am on my feet I say that suggestions made today that police in some way are not prioritising, protecting or investigating crimes committed against children or by children are categorically incorrect and insulting. Suggestions that complaints to police about being assaulted made by anyone

in Queensland are not being thoroughly investigated and included in victim numbers are incorrect. In 2024 Labor passed the Queensland Community Safety Bill, which amended section 100 of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act. The changes which commenced in May 2025 addressed an inconsistency within the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act. Police continue to investigate and report all matters under the relevant act, including the Criminal Code, the Youth Justice Act, the Child Protection Act and the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act.