



Speech By  
**Natalie Marr**

**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 4 March 2026

**MOTION**

**Victims of Crime, Data Reporting**

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (6.18 pm): I am very keen to speak on the amendment moved by the Minister for Police. For 10 long years, families in my electorate and across North Queensland have lived in fear.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms MARR:** They will continue to talk across there, Mr Speaker, because they do not want to hear the truth.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms MARR:** It is difficult for them to hear. I will start again. For 10 long years, families in my electorate and across North Queensland have lived in fear. Communities endured a decade of suffering under Labor's abject failure on crime. Homes were broken into, cars stolen and loved ones assaulted. I listened to their stories firsthand over the four years under Labor and I have seen the arrogance of those former Townsville Labor members who dismissed their pain as nothing more than a media beat-up. The numbers do not lie and neither do the victims, and I would suggest that is one of the reasons why I sit in this seat today.

Under Labor's decade of decline, victim numbers soared to unprecedented heights. In 2023 alone, almost 300,000 Queenslanders fell victim to crime, the highest in the nation—a staggering 193 per cent increase over their time in power, a figure they should hang their heads in shame on, not to mention their attitude to the victims during this time. Another figure they should be ashamed of is that total crime rose 27 per cent. Car thefts doubled, with a 101 per cent surge; break-ins climbed 44 per cent; and assaults skyrocketed by 198 per cent.

Townsville became known as the crime capital of Queensland, and Queensland became the crime capital of Australia. We were seeing nearly 300,000 victims, with the highest numbers in robberies, break-ins and vehicle thefts—over 50,000 break-ins, more than 34,000 of homes, and a 20 per cent jump in other thefts to levels not seen since 1995. Some members were not even born then. That is how long ago it was. This was not a beat-up; it was a betrayal to my community. How did Labor respond?

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms MARR:** Sorry? I would like to take that interjection.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There was no interjection to you. You have the call, member for Thuringowa.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms MARR:** The lack of respect from the opposite side has been unimaginable today.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I remind members that there are a lot of people in this chamber who are on warnings.

**Ms MARR:** Unimaginable! How did Labor respond? By weakening the laws that protected us. In 2016 they gutted the Youth Justice Act, making detention a last resort and scrapping breach of bail as an offence. This unleashed a youth crime crisis that victimised hundreds of thousands.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms MARR:** It just amazes me that they can laugh about this topic. They are sitting over there laughing at almost 300,000 victims of crime. In 2019 they watered down bail laws even further, letting repeat offenders back onto our streets to terrorise our communities. Their failed philosophy of no consequences for actions and their soft-on-crime approach bred a generation of serious repeat offenders, leaving my community to pay the price.

However, under the Crisafulli government, we are turning the tide. In 2025, victim numbers dropped 7.2 per cent per capita compared to the previous year. Robberies are down 16 per cent, break-ins by 13.2 per cent and stolen cars by 3.2 per cent. Those are positive signs of progress, but we will not take our foot off the pedal. We are strong and determined in our approach. We unashamedly support real consequences, with adult crime meaning adult time.

We are equally committed to effective early intervention and rehabilitation. We invest in programs that identify at-risk youth early through schools, community services, mentoring and family support, to steer them away from crime before it takes hold. For those who do offend, we back evidence-based compulsory rehabilitation and pathways back to meaningful lives in our communities, because true safety comes from not only punishment but also breaking the cycle of offending so fewer victims are created tomorrow.

We back our police—unlike those opposite, who this week have displayed a disappointing and poor attitude in this very chamber, questioning police and downplaying their vital work. Our government backs police with better resources and stronger powers for real action against crime. We are grateful and proud of the men and women who put their lives on the line every day to keep our communities safe.

This is what strong leadership looks like: listening to the communities, enforcing the law and keeping Queenslanders safe. The people of Thuringowa, and indeed Queensland, deserve better than Labor's decade of decline. They deserve a government that fights for them every single day. That is exactly what we will continue to do, because we are a government who deliver on putting victims first.