



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NOOSA

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ADJOURNMENT

Open Data

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (9.25 pm): The private member's motion in this chamber on 4 March regarding victims of crime data no doubt had Queenslanders pulling their hair out after many years enduring this debacle. That is why one of the recommendations from the former Youth Justice Reform Select Committee was for accurate, transparent reporting and an expanded role for the Queensland crime statistics unit to end the cherrypicking, the arguments and the notion that any policy or legislative change will see an end to crime. Using monthly data makes no sense when graphs clearly show highs and lows, with Griffith University's criminology researcher highlighting the 'long-term downward trends' over nearly 20 years. As stock market analysts say, the trend is your friend.

We have been advised many times that we cannot police or legislate our way out of crime, nor can we 'politic' our way out. The only way to reduce crime is through working together—note that word 'together'—increasing resourcing and tackling the contributors, with expert advice made publicly available as requested, which is still absent. One has to ask why? Otherwise, this seesawing will see that long-term trend reverse through a broken system where anyone who speaks out against slogans made into policy are attacked as not caring for victims, which is totally false and everyone knows it.

This never-ending war between the two sides of this chamber is making all Queenslanders victims. The data debacle traverses many areas of government. Housing—there is no data reflecting the extent of need for genuine affordable housing. How do you address it if you do not know? Policing—we fought for QPWS IT to be ungraded to receive offender information from QPS. QPWS got sorted; QPS has not. After being referred by each minister to our new open data minister, we have been referred back. Then we still cannot get the data on national parks funding allocations, and now we need to get an RTI—labelled a 'last resort' by the OIC—to get community consultation data regarding Noosa North Shore airfield. Again, why?

We hope the open data policy review will tackle these transparency issues, as well as produce that flood risk and climate change data. Ultimately, we need an independent, holistic review of our governance and decision-making systems. Please, I am asking both sides of this chamber again: end the politicking, bickering and time wasting. Queenslanders have been and are being brought to their knees. They need to see this chamber united on sorting out the basics—fuel, housing, food, power and crime. No more blame; just explain and get on with it. Queenslanders can deal with the truth.