



Speech by

Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Hansard Tuesday, 7 October 2008

CURRUMBIN ELECTORATE, HOON WATCH INITIATIVE

Mrs STUCKEY (Currumbin—LNP) (10.07 pm): Together with the honourable member for Gregory, I launched the Currumbin electorate Hoon Watch initiative on 24 September as a result of a community survey of my constituents. More than two-thirds of the 3,000-plus respondents cited law and order issues as their main grievance. A Hoon Watch program has been running successfully in the Tweed, supported by Geoff Provest MP, and authorised by the New South Wales police. My local police have indicated their support and welcomed this helpful initiative and are not worried whether it is authorised here or not. They are grossly underresourced and are happy to have the community's help with this escalating problem. I understand that last night the Mudgeeraba CCC adopted this Hoon Watch program and Gold Coast city councillors have their own version, and I table forms of these.

Tabled paper: City of Gold Coast Hoon Watch Campaign, activity report.

Tabled paper: New South Wales Police, Tweed/Byron Command, document titled, 'Are you experiencing problems with cars street racing, trail bikes or burnout offences in your street?'.

Other groups and LNP members around this state have indicated they will be doing the same. Hoon Watch will make it easier for residents to formalise their complaints about car street-racing, trail bikes and burn-out offences and give police an accurate picture of what took place in their neighbourhood. The form is available in hard copy from my office or online on my web site and can be lodged at any of our three police locations in Coolangatta, Palm Beach or Elanora or at my office. All forms lodged at my office will be forwarded to the relevant police station on a daily basis. Of course, urgent or immediately dangerous situations should be reported directly to the police or Crime Stoppers.

The aim is to target nuisance hooning offenders and allow residents to contribute to the process rather than feeling angry and helpless. I alert honourable members to the alarming statistics published in the *Queensland Police Union Journal*, September 2008 issue, by Sergeant Leon Staines of the Gold Coast Traffic Branch. The article, a copy of which I table, is titled 'Dismal Condition of Traffic Policing in Queensland'.

Tabled paper: Article in Queensland Police Union Journal, September 2008, titled 'Dismal Condition of Traffic Policing in Queensland'.

These eight pages or so emphasise just how much traffic law enforcement has suffered since the eighties under Labor governments. There are insufficient traffic officers on the road and there have been few or no staffing increases over the past decade. Statistics from the QPS's own data indicate that the commitment of the Queensland government and the QPS to road safety through traffic policing is dismal and neglectful. According to 2007 data, Queensland has only four per cent of traffic police as a percentage of total sworn police—the second lowest rate in Australia—and yet this morning the arrogant minister for police said that we are doing the best job in Australia. Indeed, it is the minister and the Bligh Labor government that are desperate—so desperate that they choose to play politics with a serious issue and insult dedicated officers and Queensland citizens. Unlike the silent Labor members on the Gold Coast, this proactive initiative recognises and responds to the concerns of residents and assists our police to apprehend offenders, save lives and improve our community road safety in general. In stark contrast to government members, I am keen to invite residents to voice their concerns and to take steps to resolve them. This government is soft on crime and tough on police. I find it remarkable, and so do many residents fed up with this antisocial activity—

Time expired.