




Speech by

Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Hansard Tuesday, 23 August 2011

MOTION: GOLD COAST, CRIME

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (6.16 pm): In speaking in support of this motion may I take this opportunity to commend the dedication, skills and persistence of all police officers across Queensland in their pursuit of criminals and antisocial behaviour.

Mr Roberts interjected.

Mrs STUCKEY: I would like to put on record that the minister is interjecting as I commend police, which I think is appalling. Theirs is a thankless task to a large degree and in countless cases a dangerous one too. It is the behaviour of this toxic Labor government and its ongoing inaction that stands condemned here in this House today. Instead of leadership we have seen denial; instead of action we have seen excuses. How many times have we heard police minister after police minister and Premier after Premier stand here and praise themselves for having more police officers in Queensland than 20 years ago under a conservative government? Talk about living in the past and not letting the truth get in the way of Labor's typical spin! It does not take too many smarts to realise that Queensland's population has exploded during this time and attracted many millions of visitors, millions never factored into the police population ratio. The honourable members for Nudgee, Southport, Albert and Burleigh revealed that they are way past their use-by date and all put forward impotent arguments in this matter. But the facts tell the true story. As the honourable member for Surfers Paradise noted, on the Gold Coast five shootings have resulted in three deaths in just seven weeks, including the murder of a respected police officer, Detective Senior Constable Damian Leeding.

Over the last decade, Labor has presided over a 100 per cent increase in drug trafficking crime. That is right, honourable members. From 1999-2000 to 2009-10 drug trafficking crime in Queensland has increased 100 per cent, with 280 incidents reported last year. In the past three years under Labor, graffiti crime has risen 14 per cent and cost ratepayers millions of dollars on top of crippling living costs imposed by the Bligh Labor government. In the past three years Labor's weak sentencing laws saw 185 convicted armed robbers walk back onto the streets without spending a night in jail and 35 convicted rapists were allowed to walk free. Then there are the backflips due to community pressure: the rollout of the GPS monitoring devices for released dangerous sex offenders which the LNP has advocated for for years and a permanent Major Crime Squad for the Gold Coast has finally been approved but only after the tragic shooting death of a devoted police officer, husband and father.

If one listened to the drivel from Labor members, one would think they are doing a marvellous job and we should be ever so grateful for the police resources that they have so graciously given the good folk of Queensland. Some 100 armed robberies on the Gold Coast this year have not gone unnoticed as media beams the stories across the state, the country and the globe, sending negative messages about our region—a region I love dearly. If one listened to the nonsense coming from the mouth of the Minister for Tourism, one would think we live in nirvana and that Labor's carbon tax will be good for business.

Despite criminals enjoying a free reign under this limp-wristed government, in recent years Labor has voted down 15 private members' bills, all of them introduced by the LNP to improve police powers and

provide tougher sentences for criminals. Some of those included the Criminal Code (Assault Causing Death) Amendment Bill 2007, which would have introduced a new offence of unlawful assault causing death and increased sentences for other crimes. There was the Criminal Code and Other Acts (Graffiti Clean-Up) Amendment Bill 2008 for compulsory community service clean-up orders for graffiti offenders. There was the Child Protection (More Stringent Reporting) Amendment Bill 2010 and the good Samaritan bill. This government even stopped people from helping others in distress.

Labor's treatment of our police is shabby, to put it mildly. The LNP values their efforts and recognises the enormously difficult job they do. Labor has become so focused on itself that it has allowed Queensland to lose its AAA credit rating, slip to No. 3 in the tourism stakes and starve its citizens of appropriate police resources. The LNP and Campbell Newman will work for all Queenslanders, not for ourselves. How dare those opposite accuse us of talking down Queensland when they have successively let it down and voted down LNP legislation that would have made our communities safer.