



Speech By
Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2019

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, LNP Plan

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (3.53 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. I am glad to speak following the police minister. I bet that if I walked outside this place the police officers would be hanging their heads and talking amongst themselves, saying, 'What a disgrace the police minister's contribution was.' I bet if I went out there and asked, 'What do you think about bail houses in Townsville?' they would say, 'Gee, they were a success!' If I asked, 'What do you think about breach of curfew and breach of bail?' they would say, 'That didn't work too well either.'

The police minister stands in this place and claims that he is delivering for this community. I beg to differ. We went to a crime forum on Monday. The Leader of the Opposition and I went to Garbutt shopping centre on Tuesday. We spoke to business owners who were having to put their hands into their pockets to fund private security.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Morayfield, order!

Mr LAST: Business owners are now having to put their hands in their pockets to fund private security in order to protect their businesses and to attract customers into their shops, because they no longer have the confidence that people can come and shop safely. There would not be a person sitting in the gallery today who would not have a comment about crime in Townsville. Every single resident of this community has the right to walk down the street and go about their business knowing that they will be safe, but that is no longer the case in this community. Every single day there is a story about crime in this community.

Mr de Brenni interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Springwood, you will be in your allocated chair if you want to participate in the debate.

Mr LAST: The minister wants to gloss over that and say that there is no issue, that crime is under control. To see that for what it is, you only need to look at the figures. Those figures are an absolute disgrace. Robbery alone has increased by 113 per cent, but apparently there is no problem with crime in Townsville: 'Nothing to see here!'

We will deliver when it comes to law and order in this community. Our track record shows that we can deliver when it comes to law and order. If people do not believe me, they should talk to opposition members about law and order and see the depth of knowledge and experience that exists on this side of the House as opposed to the other side of the House.

Mr Whiting interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bancroft, you are warned.

Mr LAST: Crime is the No. 1 issue in this community. It has not gone off the boil for three years. Those opposite can bury their heads in the sand. I see the member for Thuringowa having plenty to say, as usual, trying to talk the big talk that there are no issues in Townsville, but we know. If those opposite went out and talked to the residents of this community and to the business operators in Flinders Street—if they can find a shop that is open because of all of the businesses that have gone bankrupt—they would find out about the crime situation in this community.

I also want to talk about our plans for critical infrastructure—our plans to develop the Galilee Basin, the thousands of jobs that will bring to Townsville and communities throughout Central Queensland and the royalties that will flow from those mines. Some \$5½ billion in royalties flowed into government coffers last year. All we in North Queensland want is our fair share of the pie to go to roads, hospitals and schools. I do not think that is asking for too much.

More importantly when it comes to critical infrastructure, we will build the dams this state needs. If you have water you have opportunities. Those on this side of the House know all about water and what it means when you have water.

Ms Leahy: Water means wealth.

Mr LAST: I take that interjection. In this state, if you have water you have wealth. That is exactly what we plan to provide. We will build the dams. We will have the Queensland Dam Company based here in Townsville to create jobs and we will build dams from one end of this state to the other. Won't it be great for this state when we can do that? Contrast that with those on the other side, who are looking for every excuse under the sun to delay these dam projects. What about Rookwood Weir? 'Let's put that back a couple of years and let's take a couple of metres off the top.'

An opposition member: Nullinga.

Mr LAST: Nullinga? 'Let's kick that into the long grass.' They do not want to talk about that either. If people want North Queensland to prosper—if you want this area and these people to be looked after—you need to back in this side of the House.