

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 552**  
**Asked on 17 April 2008**

MS C MALE asked the Leader of the Liberal Party, Shadow Attorney-General and Shadow Minister for Justice and Fair Trading (MR. MCARDLE) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the Criminal Code and Other Acts (Graffiti Clean-Up) Amendment Bill—  
As I understand that this was not a Bill endorsed by the joint party room, will he be proceeding with the Bill?

ANSWER:

I would like to thank the Member for Glass House for recognising the important role the Queensland Coalition is playing in providing a strong and united alternative government with policies worthy of her consideration and interest. This Question on Notice is also an extraordinary testimonial from a Government Member of Parliament who now chooses to direct important questions about policy to the alternative government. This in no small way reflects an underlying lack of confidence in the Bligh Government's ability to provide honest and reliable information about matters of public importance. It is also a view shared by the Queensland Coalition and the Queensland Auditor-General. As the Member is no doubt aware, the Auditor-General's Report to Parliament No.1 for 2008 (Enhancing Accountability through Annual Reporting: A Performance Management System Audit) released on 17 April 2008 found: "Guidance provided by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Treasury Department is not sufficient to support accountability and promote a culture of performance management...[And] The information provided to the Parliament through departmental annual reports does not fully comply with legislation, is incomplete and ambiguous in the portrayal of agency accountability and performance."

I note the Member for Glass House's statements in Queensland Parliament in February 2007. The honourable member said dealing with the graffiti problem was "also about teaching them [vandals] respect for themselves and respect for other people's properties, and I think that is something that has been missing a lot". I couldn't agree more. I also note the honourable member advised the House last year that Queensland Rail had spent about \$2 million on removing graffiti from carriages and from other railway property. And then the Member for Glass House advised "property owners need to realise that effective immediate clean-up is very important so that graffiti vandals do not have a chance to idolise the work that they put out there".

Having seen the state of many of the QR carriages, I respectfully submit for the honourable member's consideration that there are two lingering problems with the current State Government's approach to dealing with graffiti: 1/. Vandals do not respect other people's property; and 2/. The State Government is not engaging in "effective and immediate clean-up". *The Criminal Code and Other Acts (Graffiti Clean-Up) Amendment Bill* will mean the graffiti vandals will be forced to invest their own time and effort into cleaning up their own mess and by extension learn the true cost of damaging other people's property. Indeed, at least one corrective services graffiti cleanup pilot program could be dedicated to the unsightly QR carriages the Honourable Member referred to last year.

I can advise the Member for Glass House that for the reasons outlined above, as well as from answers to Questions on Notice from the Member for Stafford, the Member for Southport and the Member for Ipswich, the Queensland Coalition remains committed to the *Criminal Code and Other Acts (Graffiti Clean-Up) Amendment Bill*.

As the Member for Glass House should be aware, the current Queensland Government does not have a good track record on tackling graffiti. Indeed, the Attorney-General has even refused to answer questions about how many convicted graffiti vandals are made to spend

time cleaning up after themselves. I respectfully ask the honourable member to consider the words of the father of a graffiti vandal who committed at least 350 offences throughout Brisbane and Ipswich, including destroying the 1919 Bundamba Memorial Park statue. "What baffles me is that no one's ordered him to clean up his damage," he told the Sunday Mail. I encourage the Member for Glass House to represent the interests of her community in supporting the *Criminal Code and Other Acts (Graffiti Clean-Up) Amendment Bill* when it is debated in Queensland Parliament. And, I have also sponsored an e-petition if the Member for Glass House is interested in helping me fight Queensland's graffiti problem.

I refer the Honourable Member to Questions on Notice No. 569, No. 573 and No. 577 for more information.