



Speech by

## Dr Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

Hansard Wednesday, 24 November 2010

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### WELLINGTON POINT LAW AND ORDER FORUM

**Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (11.38 pm): I rise to draw the attention of the House to a recent visit of the Leader of the Opposition to Wellington Point in my electorate of Cleveland. On Wednesday, 17 November John-Paul Langbroek came to Wellington Point and joined me and Peter Dowling, the member for Redlands, to hold a forum on law and order for the northern Redlands. I thank the opposition leader for the interest he showed in the wellbeing and safety of the people of Wellington Point, Birkdale and Ormiston. John-Paul came to hear the concerns of the people about the increased incidence of youth violence, domestic violence, assaults and hooning, among other issues, and to interact with residents.

The northern Redlands is a lovely bayside area that has undergone a transformation as the population has grown. In general, the Redlands is a relatively peaceful and safe place to live, raise a family, work and retire. However, in recent years the rate of crime has increased despite the best preventative efforts of our overworked police officers, whom I take this opportunity to thank. The most recent crime statistics for the Wynnum district, including the Redlands, show an overall increase in crime and not a decrease as claimed by the government. In 2009-10, crime rates have increased over those of 2008-09 as follows: assaults are up by 4.3 per cent, unlawful entry is up 3.5 per cent, shop stealing is up 31 per cent, fraud is up 67 per cent, drug related crime is up 10 per cent, disqualified drivers are up 54 per cent and public nuisance is up 11 per cent. Those statistics are very alarming, and locals are calling for the government to do something about it.

One of the main issues mentioned at the forum was violent crime. In recent years in the Redlands there have been several serious incidents. One of the most recent took place on the evening of 7 September, when Ray Lee, a 94-year-old war veteran, was seriously assaulted in his Station Street home at Wellington Point. In 2006 the death of Matthew Stanley from a single punch rocked the Redlands. Paul Stanley, Matthew's father and the president of the Matthew Stanley Foundation and resident of Thornlands, has become Queensland's No. 1 voice against youth violence. I thank Paul for his attendance and speech at our Wellington Point forum last week. I call on the government to get behind his new Walk Away Chill Out campaign. The government could consider providing some funding to assist them.

At the forum another key issue that was raised was that of domestic violence. I thank Councillor Wendy Boglary for her attendance and advocacy on this issue. One local organisation that has done a great job in this area is the Bayside Domestic Violence Initiative. Unfortunately, it has been unable to convince the communities minister that it is worthy of significant funding and is only hanging on by its fingertips. As we approach White Ribbon Day tomorrow, I ask the communities minister to reconsider the situation and provide some useful funding to BDVI to help it do its important work.

Again I thank the opposition leader for visiting Cleveland. The forum has clearly identified that more resources are needed in the northern part of the Redlands to keep pace with the challenges. I am hoping that the government will respond positively in this regard.