




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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ADJOURNMENT

Theodore Electorate, Youth Crime

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (7.26 pm): I welcome the Guides and Scouts. It is great to have them at Parliament House.

The northern Gold Coast is a wonderful place to live and raise a family but, like many other places throughout Queensland, residents are fed up with the scourge of youth crime that is plaguing our state. This is a regular topic at my community roadsides that I hold daily throughout my electorate. Many residents approach me about it. They are at their wit's end and certainly do not hold back their frustration with the system.

The residents of my area work hard to buy a house, buy items for that house and buy a car. A resident in my area, Jann, felt that she had no choice but to sell her home and move to a gated estate because she was so fearful for her own safety. Her house had been broken into on multiple occasions. She had lived in that house for many years. Jann was terrified that one day she would wake up and have an intruder at her bed. Jann is not alone. Residents have shared their frustration on social media. One states—

On Thursday night Friday morning, we had a brick and rocks smash the back of our car which was parked in our driveway in the cul de sac in Upper Coomera near the school. We have had a few instances of kids being nuisance around the area including a pram being stolen 12 months ago. This one really hurt the back pocket again.

Another post states—

To the teenagers hanging out outside Pimpama City last night, have you any idea how much you scared my daughter last night when she was driving home from her first shift at work when you hurled a large rock through her windscreen causing it to smash.

The list of social media posts on this issue goes on. No matter where people live—Pacific Pines, Oxenford, Nerang, Upper Coomera, Pimpama, Arundel—the scourge does not discriminate. It does not matter if it is car theft, a break-in, wilful damage or assault; it is a scourge on our city and our state.

A recent *Gold Coast Bulletin* article titled 'Police fed up with underage offenders terrorising Gold Coast's North' states—

Police on the ground say they are fed up with the constant 'catch and release' of underage thugs who are terrorising shopping centres and train stations in the city's north. Several sources said police were arresting teenage criminals only for them to walk in and out of court and reoffend.

Families in my area work hard for everything they have. It is heartbreaking to see these individuals continuing to do this.