



Private Members' Statement

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Shadow Minister for Climate Change & Sustainability

Hansard, Wednesday 16 September 2009

Noosa, Police Resources

Mr ELMES (Noosa--LNP) (11.55 am): In the dead of night on 28 August two 16-year-olds and a 17-year-old invaded the home occupied by the family of Dawn Fraser. One of the home invaders put their hands around the throat of Dawn Fraser and uttered the words, 'I will kill you.' It took police an hour to respond and when they did the police attending had to come from Coolumb, 20 minutes drive away, because the Noosa car was busy elsewhere. Dawn Fraser has said publicly that she would write to the Premier and demand to know why there were so few police in Noosa. I would be interested to know, as I am sure the community of Noosa would be interested to know, what response the Premier sent to Dawn Fraser.

There are two issues at play here. The first is that of the three home invaders, two were juveniles and dealt with under the Juvenile Justice Act. The other, a 17-year-old, appeared in the Noosa Magistrates Court yesterday, pleaded guilty, admitted the fact that he was intoxicated and received a fine of \$200. That ruling is akin to being lashed by a lettuce leaf and is completely out of step with community standards and what the community expects of the judicial system.

The other point I would like to make is that, if one looks at the old Noosa shire, is it any wonder that we complain about the lack of police when based on the current population, which is based on the 2006 census, divided by the number of police that the government says are assigned to each station in the former shire, our police to population ratio was more than one to 1,000. That assumes that every single police officer is at work and does not take into consideration one tourist being in Noosa.

When the home of Dawn Fraser is invaded it becomes news, and so it should, but other home invasions, assaults, vandalism and other crimes that are committed on ordinary Queenslanders go largely unnoticed with little or no punishment and that needs to be actioned.

It is time this government stopped being soft on crime. It is time this government provided Noosa with the police protection that any decent community deserves.
