



**Adjournment Speech by
GLEN ELMES**

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

Hansard, 13 March 2008

YOUTH VIOLENCE

Members of this House know that I have been pleading with the Police Minister to take the issue of violence (especially youth violence), seriously since I was elected to this place. I wrote to the Minister on the 10th of December 2007 inviting her to Noosa and I quote -

"To see first-hand just how bad the situation has become in the Noosa electorate. Rather than publicly walk the streets with senior police officers and media in a pre-organised coordinated event, I will drive you around the known trouble spots and let residents and business owners explain to you personally what they have to endure at the hands of these lawless youths."

(TABLE LETTER)

It seems a reasonable suggestion doesn't it? Actually find out what the problem is by talking to locals instead of indulging in a political stunt.

The Ministers idea of getting a handle on the situation was to turn up in Noosa with the Police Commissioner and take a stroll around town at 10pm at night.

This is Governing Labor-style, government by spin. Don't fix the problem, just look like you are.

The Police Minister could have written back to me and said I'm coming to Noosa and can I take you up on your offer to show me around? But she didn't. The Minister could have called me aside during the last sitting of Parliament indeed the night before she came for her secret visit and said Glen I'm coming up to Noosa tomorrow night, let's go and talk to the residents. But she didn't Mr Deputy Speaker.

The Minister snuck into Noosa like a guilty teenager through the backdoor and then tried to convince the locals that the Labor government was taking the issue seriously by releasing a statement that not one single solitary person I've spoken to believed. Local media outlets saw it for what it was as well.

The editorial in the Sunshine Coast Sunday on the 2nd March wrote-

"No one believes for a minute that you were going to see the real picture by walking the streets with uniformed police officers beside you"

"If the plan was to see a slice of reality- you failed"

"If it was to present some sort of façade which would fool people into thinking you were serious, you failed there as well"

The editorial of the Noosa Journal on the 6th of March wrote-

"The stroll through Hastings St at 10pm accompanied by a police escort including Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson is a cynical ploy from someone who should really know better. It only serves to confirm that people in Noosa are not taken seriously by the State Labor Government."

(TABLE EDITORIALS)

Minister, lets forget the silly political stunts. Take me up on my offer to come to Noosa and I'll show you where the trouble spots are. I'll take you to Noosa Woods and some of the other parks in Noosa, We'll visit Tickle Park in Coolum and later in the evening see the effects of what happens between 2 and 3am when drunks spill onto the streets from clubs and nightclubs harassing taxi drivers, nearby residents and staff of local businesses.

If the thought of a bi-partisan approach is too much for you to stomach at least spend a few hours in a patrol car with local officers so that they can point out to you the trouble spots and then plead with you for more officers in the Noosa and Coolum police divisions.

Minister you have been in charge of Police since 2004. Isn't it time you started listening to the community and to local police. This Portfolio is no place for spin and stunts Mr Deputy Speaker. The people of Noosa won't accept it and neither will the people of Queensland.
