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MEMBER: Ms LAUGA

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.46 pm): I rise in support of the minister's amendment. I support this government's massive investment in community safety—a record \$2.6 billion in the police budget alone. That means more police for my electorate and more police resources. I commend this government for its record investment in police and police resources. There will be more than 2,000 extra police personnel over the next five years with at least 150 additional police to be delivered to the central police region, which includes my electorate of Keppel. I commend every one of the 550-plus police in the Capricornia police district and I say: thank you for keeping our communities safe.

This government backs our police. This government backs our police by providing the resources they need. Let's talk about community safety in the police district that takes in Keppel. The latest police statistics show that the overall rate of total reported crime from 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021 has decreased by 12 per cent. The rate of offences against property decreased by 30 per cent over the same period. Those opposite do not like talking about the statistics. It is all just fear. Police themselves say early results show that the new youth justice laws are working. I know that police in the Capricornia are out and about conducting regular bail and curfew checks on repeat youth offenders to ensure they are complying with their current court ordered conditions.

There is a youth justice co-responder team in the police district that covers my electorate of Keppel. This hardworking team of professionals operates on a three-shift, 24/7 roster targeting high-risk youth offenders. I commend each and every one of them for the work they do in keeping our community safe, and I support the programs that are in place to help turn young lives around.

This House has often heard me talk about the success of the award-winning Project Booyah. I fought for that project back in 2016 and, since then, I have attended graduation ceremony after graduation ceremony to celebrate young people turning their lives around. I back that program 100 per cent. I give a shout-out to Constable Joe Ramsay and his team at Project Booyah Rockhampton.

Project Respect, which was delivered by Project Booyah, works with young, at-risk people at the Yeppoon State High School. There is also a local Facebook page run by police for the Capricorn Coast. It is a direct link for police and the community to work together proactively on local solutions to local issues. We have 10 police liaison officers in the Capricornia District including Yeppoon.

This government is investing in community safety initiatives in my electorate. Under this government, police will have new high-tech cameras, including an expanded fleet of drones to crack down on hoons. We have expanded existing laws including shifting the onus of proof onto the vehicle owner. This means if the owner claims they were not driving the vehicle at the time of the offence it will be up to them to prove it. Our attack on hooning is fully funded from our record \$2.6 billion police budget.

045 The LNP axed funding to the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council that provides vital data to police to help prevent car thefts. The LNP also failed to fund a trial of automatic numberplate recognition that helps police track stolen vehicles. The LNP cut police numbers—more than 300 police personnel. They forced police to buy their own body worn video cameras. They failed to fund police training and police overtime for safe night precincts. They cut weapons training. They cut the police budget. It does not matter what they say in this House or outside it; they cut, sack and sell. It will always be in their DNA.

In closing, I take the time remaining to congratulate my Labor parliamentary colleagues the members for Townsville and Thuringowa. I know that these members live and breathe their Townsville community and that they have been having a really hard time. I know that they care deeply about their community and that they are working extremely hard to try to keep their community safe. We can see from the member for Thuringowa's contribution to this debate how passionate he is about working to keep his community safe. I congratulate the member for Thuringowa as I know that he puts his heart and soul into trying to keep his community safe. I thank him for the work he does to keep his community safe. He is so passionate about getting children into jobs or back into school or into skills and training but, most importantly, about community safety. I commend the minister's amendment to the House.