



NORTH QUEENSLAND CRIME ACTION PLAN

Our Comprehensive Strategy to Make Cairns and Townsville Safe Again

A Tim Nicholls-led Liberal National Government will introduce tougher laws, increase police powers and empower locals to provide safe and liveable communities in North Queensland.

The Problem

Drug and violent crime is increasing because Annastacia Palaszczuk and Labor are soft on crime.

Labor voted to wind back tough laws dealing with young offenders who have been running riot on the streets of North and Far North Queensland and our police aren't getting the resources they need to keep the community safe.

Break-ins, car theft and hooning offences are out of control.

Police statistics show unlawful use of a motor vehicle has increased by 30.2% in the Far North and 18.7% across the Townsville region in the last year alone.

Labor actually blamed increasing crime rates on locals not locking their houses and cars up properly.

Enough is enough. It's time to put community safety first and hold these criminals accountable for their actions.

Our Record

In government, the LNP introduced a number of strong law reforms in 2014 that weren't given the chance to work, although the early signs were promising.

We also made a significant investment in frontline policing, with almost 900 additional police on the beat in our term of government, two dedicated police helicopters and targeted crime-fighting resources to protect the community.

Our Real Plan

A Tim Nicholls-led LNP Government will implement a comprehensive plan empowering North Queensland locals to reclaim their communities from criminal activity.

The *North Queensland Crime Action Plan* includes more resources and tougher laws to assist the police and the courts. Our plan focuses on early intervention, better

policing and stronger enforcement through tougher penalties for repeat offenders.

Our \$25.9 million *North Queensland Crime Action Plan* consists of:

1. Better Resources for Police

- Establishing a **20 person specialist Rapid Action Patrol police squad based in Cairns at a cost of \$8.6 million over three years**
- Implementing a **new police pursuit policy, trialled in Townsville, focusing on car theft and hooning offences, and**
- **Launching a permanent police and emergency services helicopter for North Queensland, based in Townsville, fitted with Forward Looking Infrared Camera (FLIR) technology at a cost of \$10 million over four years, complementing the police pursuit policy trial.**

2. Early Intervention

- Trialling an early intervention youth rehabilitation program, coordinated by the Premier's Department, to identify and rehabilitate at-risk young people, before they are caught up in the youth justice system, at a cost of \$4 million over three years.

3. Tougher Laws

- **Re-introducing 'breach of bail' as an offence again for young offenders**
- **Introducing a community payback scheme for young offenders** convicted of unlawful entry or car theft/hooning offences to undertake a mandatory community service order to show their remorse and reparation for their crime, upon their first offence at a cost of \$2 million over four years
- **Removing the principle of detention as a last resort for repeat young offenders upon their second offence**

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- Re-instating the ability for a Court to name and shame a repeat young offender upon their third offence (three strikes policy), and
- Providing the Court with the ability to restrict a young person's eligibility for a driver's licence if they have been convicted of certain car theft and hooning offences.

4. Making Parents More Accountable

- Partnering with the Commonwealth Government to ensure the parents of a child in youth detention don't receive the welfare payments they would normally receive for their child, while that child is incarcerated in detention, and
- Implementing *Operation Townsville Safe Streets*, a six month youth curfew strategy in Townsville overseen by local police and Council, at a cost of \$1.3 million. The trial would affect children under 16 who are roaming the streets after 10pm at night (either by themselves or with other minors) and see them collected by police and looked after at a local emergency accommodation shelter until they can be safely returned to their parents. The shelter would be staffed with a counsellor and nurse to ensure that the wellbeing of the child was looked after, while ensuring the community was protected. Young thugs roaming the streets would soon learn that it's not worth the risk of being caught, while their parents would be held more accountable for their actions. Part of the review of this trial will also look at dealing with issues of vagrants in Cairns and Townsville committing petty crimes and causing local disturbances.

Frequently Asked Questions

To what extent has crime increased in Cairns and Townsville in recent years, compared with the LNP?

Townsville Region:

	2015	2016	% Change	2013	2014	% Change
Assault	1705	1843	8.1	1644	1662	1.1
Robbery	62	111	79.0	66	57	-13.6
Unlawful Entry	2192	3219	46.9	3184	2088	-34.4
Car Theft	651	1159	78.0	1036	592	-42.9

Cairns District:

	2015	2016	% Change	2013	2014	% Change
Assault	745	858	15.2	822	742	-9.7
Robbery	51	69	35.3	66	57	-13.6
Unlawful Entry	1433	1551	8.2	1554	1474	-5.1
Car Theft	344	475	38.1	339	252	-25.7

Source: Questions on Notice, 1191 and 1256 asked in August 2017.

Do locals support the actions of the Palaszczuk Labor Government in dealing with increased crime rates?

In late 2016, the Townsville Bulletin polled local residents on their views about how their three local Labor MPs were responding to local crime issues in the community. The results speak for themselves:



When will the policies be implemented?

The dedicated police and emergency services helicopter will be leased. We will start the procurement process in the first 100 days of an LNP Government as a priority measure in the fightback against crime.

The youth curfew strategy, 'Operation Townsville Safe Streets' will be established with a locally co-ordinated implementation panel and commence in 2018, as a six month trial.

Law reform proposals will be prioritised as part of our legislative reform agenda within the first 12 months of government.

Why is the police pursuit policy being changed?

On behalf of their members, the Queensland Police Union of Employees has been calling for changes to the current policy to allow more discretion as to when police are able to pursue offenders. They have labelled the current policy – the 'no pursuit' policy – ineffective for its overly restrictive nature.

Community safety is obviously a paramount consideration as part of the policy overhaul, however a more balanced approach should be at least trialled. If we trust the police to use discretion when using lethal force, we should allow them to use the same discretion when they need to pursue an offender.