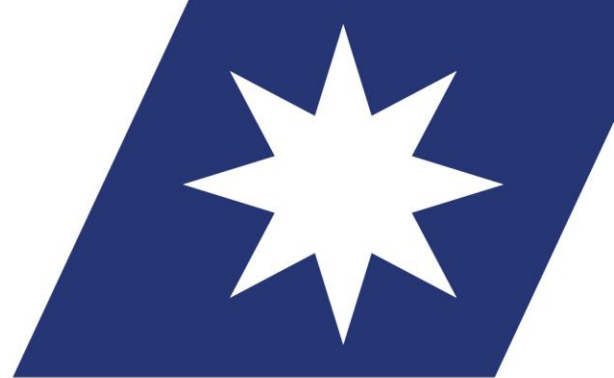


SHANE KNUTH

Katter's Australian Party

Member for Hill



MEDIA RELEASE

Shane Knuth and KAP launches petition on youth crime

Member for Hill Shane Knuth has launched an e-petition and paper petition to be tabled in Parliament in late March to give a voice to North Queenslanders after the State Government announced a band-aid solution to fix youth crime which fell short of community expectations.

Mr Knuth, who attended crime rallies in both Atherton and Mareeba last week, said stronger action needed to be taken to reduce youth crime.

"Full credit to Queenslanders right across the state who have been strongly advocating for tougher legislation for repeat juvenile offenders," Mr Knuth said.

"Sadly, a number of lives have been lost and while the Palaszczuk Government has taken a small step to crack down on youth crime it doesn't go far enough.

"Not only must we address and strengthen current bails laws, but we need a deterrent to stop juveniles from reoffending.

"KAP is calling for a third sentencing option to be made available for courts for juvenile offenders.

"Relocation sentencing must be considered which aims to send repeat offenders to remote areas, teach them values and skills, which helps break the cycle of crime and act as a deterrent to preventing further offences.

"We have also seen the destruction that unlawful use of a motor vehicle can do to lives and families. This must also be included as a serious offence charge.

"This is a change to juvenile laws that all Queenslanders have been screaming out for.

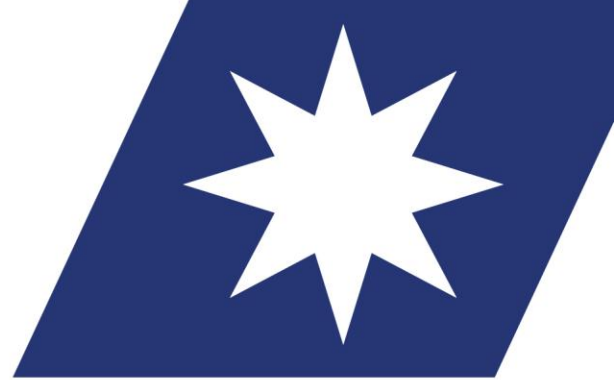
"Our petition focuses on the gaps that Labor has left out of their recent announcements such as:

1. Trial a third option for the courts, in the form of relocation sentencing, as a deterrent and to facilitate the rehabilitation of youth offenders.
2. Include a presumption against bail for youths charged with the unlawful use of a motor vehicle, in addition to the government announced, breaking and entering, serious sexual assault and armed robbery charges.
3. Amend legislation to re-introduce breach of bail as an offence for repeat youth offenders.
4. Ensure that courts are adequately resourced so that Youth Offenders are dealt in an expeditious manner, so that delay in judicial processes are not used as a reason for youth offenders to be granted bail.
5. Repeal Schedule 1, Youth Justice Act 2015, Charter of Youth Justice, Item 18 which provides that a child should be detained in custody for an offence, whether on arrest, remand or sentence, only as a last resort and for the least time that is justified in the circumstances.

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MEDIA RELEASE

Paper petitions can be found in the Hill Electorate office located in the Silo Central Shopping Centre, Atherton and at Bob Katter's Mareeba and Innisfail offices.

The link for the online petition is available for all Queenslanders to sign at:

<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/petition-details?id=3468>

Caption: Member for Hill Shane Knuth has released an E-Petition and paper petition called 'Stop Youth Crime' in an effort to put more pressure on the government after their announcement this week. PHOTO: Supplied

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