

19 March 2024

Dear Premier,

We write to you as NSW Nationals Members of Parliament in relation to the escalating regional crime crisis in NSW, and the need for swift and calculated action.

We acknowledge the investment you have directed to a pilot program in Moree; however, we write to you seeking a state-wide, whole-of-government response.

What works in Moree might not work in Broken Hill. Each town has a different set of circumstances, resources and organisations to engage with.

Our regional communities are experiencing a huge spike in serious crimes including knife crimes, home invasions, assault, and auto-vehicle theft. No matter where you live in NSW, you have a right to feel safe in your home and deserve appropriate investment and attention.

The NSW Nationals are calling for a Parliamentary Inquiry into regional crime to give regional communities a voice, and shine a light on the long-lasting emotional, financial and often physical scars of regional crime.

This would allow your government to formulate a whole-of-government response to benefit communities experiencing the same issues as those in Moree.

We urge you to listen to the calls of the NSW Police Association, Country Mayors Association, the Country Women's Association of NSW, NSW Farmers and many more – and support a Parliamentary Inquiry.

We also write in relation to the Bail and Crimes Amendment Bill 2024, introduced to the Legislative Assembly by the Attorney-General on 12 March 2024.

The intent of the Bill is not disputed. However, in practice it does not go far enough to address the issue of recidivist offending by youths, particularly in regional NSW.

The Bill only applies to two crimes - put simply, it does not address the full range of serious issues our regional communities are facing daily.

The Minns Labor government has a chance to get this reform right and we implore you to do the best thing for our regional communities – before someone pays the ultimate price for this escalating situation.

It is important that legislation and consultation is undertaken in a way that reflects the needs of communities and stakeholder groups across regional NSW, not just one community.

Please notify me should you wish to discuss these matters further.

Sincerely,



Dugald Saunders MP

Leader of the NSW Nationals

Shadow Minister for Regional NSW, Agriculture, and Natural Resources

Member for Dubbo



The Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC

Deputy Leader of the NSW Nationals

Shadow Minister for Regional Health, Trade, and Seniors

Member of the Legislative Council

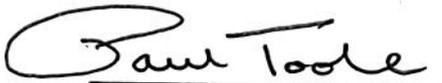


The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC

Leader of the NSW Nationals in the Legislative Council

Shadow Minister for Education, Early Learning, and Western NSW

Member of the Legislative Council



The Hon Paul Toole MP

Shadow Minister for Police

Member for Bathurst



The Hon Kevin Anderson MP

Shadow Minister for Gaming, Racing, Arts, and Heritage

Member for Tamworth



Gurmeh Singh MP

The Nationals Whip

Shadow Minister for Tourism, Emergency Services, and the North Coast

Member for Coffs Harbour



Steph Cooke MP

Shadow Minister for Water and Crown Lands

Member for Cootamundra



Dave Layzell MP

Shadow Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

Member for Upper Hunter

Member of the Legislative Council

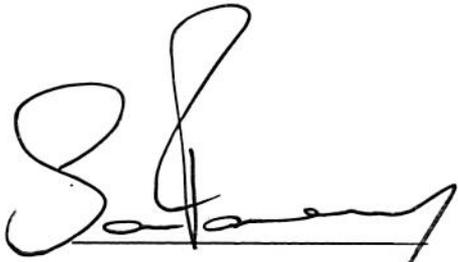


The Hon Wes Fang MLC

Deputy Opposition Whip in the Legislative Council

Shadow Assistant Minister for Police, Emergency Services, Regional NSW, Agriculture and Natural Resources

Member of the Legislative Council



The Hon Sam Farrow MLC

Deputy Leader of the NSW Nationals in
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Member of the Legislative Council



Michael Kemp MP

Member for Oxley



The Hon Adam Marshall MP

Member for Northern Tablelands



Geoff Provest MP

Member for Tweed



Tanya Thompson MP

Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional
Health, Trade, and Seniors

Member for Myall Lakes



Richie Williamson MP

Member for Clarence