



Speech by

GRANT MUSGROVE

MEMBER FOR SPRINGWOOD

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LOGAN AND MOUNT GRAVATT POLICE DISTRICTS, LAW AND ORDER

Mr MUSGROVE (Springwood—ALP) (12.01 a.m.): I rise to inform the House of some of the initiatives of the Beattie Labor Government, and in particular the Minister for Police and Corrective Services, in providing services for the people of the Logan and Mount Gravatt districts in relation to law and order. In prefacing my comments, I would like to reflect on today's media stories about the email comments, which I personally found offensive and I am sure my constituents would also have found offensive. We in Logan City work very, very hard to build our community. Logan bashing as such has been around for 20 years or 30 years. However, it is not something that the people of my area appreciate. It sets back the good endeavours of many hardworking members of the community who like where they live, who are proud of where they live, and who work very hard as a team to lift Logan's image. Certainly, those reports in the media are unhelpful to say the very least.

At the end of the day, the actions of the Government speak louder than words. I am proud to inform this House that at the Springwood Community Cabinet meeting, which was held last weekend and on Monday, the Police Minister, Tom Barton, announced three new police shopfronts for shopping centres in Springwood, Mount Gravatt and Woodridge and a Police Beat to be located in Eagleby. Each of those should be operating by early next year.

The Springwood shopfront was a commitment of the then shadow Cabinet, which came down to visit the people in the electorate of Springwood when it was not a Labor electorate and it was a long way away from an election. The shadow Cabinet gave a commitment to provide a police shopfront to the Springwood community to improve policing. I am sure that the very hardworking police officers in my community will appreciate that extra facility to enable them to be working directly with shopkeepers, the community and local publicans to reduce crimes such as car theft, disorderly behaviour in a public place and common property crimes that occur around shopping centres and other places where people gather.

I know that the member for Mansfield is delighted that the Mount Gravatt shopfront at Garden City will be operating before Christmas. I am also sure that the member for Woodridge will be delighted that the shopfront that is to be located in the Logan Central Plaza at Woodridge is due to be finished by February next year. That location in Logan Central Plaza will mean that that area will have two shopfronts within several kilometres of each other. That will serve the good people of Logan very, very well.

In the 1998 election campaign, Labor promised 10 Police Beats and 10 shopfronts. The Government has exceeded the Police Beats promise with 12 new Police Beats being implemented this financial year. In relation to shopfronts, there will be a further six this year and four the next year. I believe that members will agree that Police Beats and shopfronts not only provide a human face to the Police Service but also reduce crime and the fear of crime because they are a very visible police presence.

I contrast this approach with that of the Opposition. I refer to the editorial of the Reporter newspaper, which is circulated in my electorate and, indeed, throughout Logan City. The editorial reflects on the views of the member for Broadwater. The headline states, "Grice off road on gun laws", and I will entertain the House with the following quotes from it—

"Allan Grice wants to alter domestic violence laws, so some bullies can get their guns back.

Some get domestic violence orders against them because they can't control themselves.

It doesn't seem to me that Mr Grice really cares about the sometimes defenceless women involved."

While this Government is taking positive action to reduce crime in our community—and we know that domestic violence is a problem generally but it is a particular problem in Logan City—Mr Grice wants to give people their guns back. After the great tragedy of Port Arthur, which I am sure all members would agree was a turning point in this nation's history in relation to gun laws, certainly as far as my electors and my local newspaper, which is very much in touch with the local community, are concerned and I find Mr Grice's view that these gun-toting males should be given back their guns, which are often turned on their de facto wives or their spouses, is bizarre to say the least and is indeed a great tragedy. I certainly hope that if the Opposition is ever returned to Government, it will not implement that policy. The editorial in the Reporter newspaper finishes off with this final comment—

"With policies like this, the Opposition will be the Opposition when I'm old and grey."

Time expired.
