



Speech by

Mr M. HORAN

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Hansard 26 May 1999

POLICE MINISTER

Mr HORAN (Toowoomba South—NPA) (10.12 a.m.): This morning we have heard another pathetic list of excuses from the weary Police Minister as he goes about making excuses and blaming other people for his own shortcomings. Right across the State we have shortages of police, despite the fact that we, the coalition Government, put in place a system to provide 350 to 400 additional police every single year. What do we hear from the Police Minister? Excuses!

If the Police Minister was responsible for the electorate of Redcliffe, I bet he would not want to see the publicans, the small businesspeople and the chamber of commerce passing the hat around to pay for police to look after the streets, the restaurants, the hotels, the small businesses and the shopping centres of Redcliffe. What does he do? He tries to say something like that Indooroopilly Shoppingtown, which is a closed internal mall and which had some special services, is similar to Redcliffe. Where are the cars in the shoppingtown? Where are all the people walking up and down the street? It is absolutely ridiculous.

What we are seeing under this Police Minister is a shortage of police in Redcliffe to do the normal core business of looking after the CBD on busy Friday and Saturday nights. We see a shortage of police in Charters Towers. Has the Minister got an excuse for that? There are supposed to be 17 police in Charters Towers, but they have been down as low as seven for large chunks of this year. There are only two patrol cars rostered on at night in Townsville, one of the biggest cities in Queensland. Why does the Police Minister not go up to Ipswich and talk to the cabbies about the problems there? No, he likes to sit back and say, "I am weary. I am tired. This is an operational matter." He gives some excuse. He blames his staff.

What we need in this State is a Police Minister who acts—who will actually do something—who will put all these extra police in Charters Towers, Townsville, Stanthorpe, Beaudesert, Nambour, Redcliffe and Ipswich—not a weak, weary, tired, lazy Minister who blames everybody else.

Time expired.
