



Speech by

Mr M. HORAN

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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POLICE RESOURCES

Mr HORAN (Toowoomba South—NPA) (10.14 a.m.): Thanks to the efforts of the coalition whilst in Government, police numbers and police ratios in Queensland are increasing in accordance with the coalition plan. While the coalition was in Government, it had the foresight, determination, organisation, management skills and, most importantly, the funding to put in place a system that saw a massive increase in recruitment through the Oxley academy and which saw the establishment of a brand-new police academy in Townsville in spite of the endeavours of the then Opposition Police spokesperson, Mr Barton, to stop that project. He opposed it every inch of the way and did his best to stop it. That initiative is one of the major factors that has contributed to the increase in numbers that we are now seeing.

In addition, the coalition Government put in place the retreads scheme whereby experienced officers from interstate, overseas or former Queensland police officers have been able to be recruited into the Police Service. As a result of that, police numbers are now achieving the target that the coalition—not Labor—set. Why is that the case? It is because the Police Minister inherited the lovely legacy left behind for him by the coalition. He did not have to lift a finger. He just sat back in the big chair and let it all happen. He said, "Just leave the plan that the coalition put in place, because my plan is flawed and would have delivered 308 fewer police than the coalition's plan." The next time the Police Minister issues a press release, as he did last week, when he made some snide comments about how many more increases in police numbers there are than during the time of the coalition Government, everybody in Queensland will know that we are seeing extra police because we put in place a plan, funded it, organised it and made it happen. He just sat back and copied our plan.

Time expired.
