



Speech by

Mr M. HORAN

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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POLICE RESOURCES

Mr HORAN (Toowoomba South—NPA) (10.06 a.m.): In 18 short months the Beattie Labor Government has already squandered the legacy left by the coalition Government of a massive recruitment program for the Queensland Police Service and a downward trend over two years of the coalition Government in reported offences against the person and offences against property. The recent release of the Queensland Police Service statistics clearly shows that the downward trend that existed for two years under the coalition Government has been reversed. In fact, we have a 5% increase in reported crime across the State led by the Sunshine Coast, with a 20% increase. The Sunshine Coast has been so sadly neglected by the Beattie Labor Government, particularly with the number of police assigned there.

What are they doing about it? Despite the massive recruitment program that we put in place, they have cut by 114 the number of recruits going through the police academies in Queensland this year, in a year in which they report a 5% increase in crime. The clear-up rates were 27.5% last year. They are only 27.8% this year. What are they doing with the hundreds and hundreds of extra police who have been recruited and who have graduated and who are out there in service? There has been a paltry 4% increase in the State Budget compared to the over 8% increase by the coalition Government in the previous Budget.

That is not all there is. Not only has there been a 4% increase for police—one of the most important and core aspects of Government business—but there has been a 41% increase in the budget for the Premier and a 61% increase in the budget for the Deputy Premier. We are seeing the Queensland Police Service put way down the bottom of the list when it comes to priorities in Queensland. The facts and the figures speak for themselves. The legacy left behind by the coalition Government has been squandered. The target set by this Minister for Police and Corrective Services for increases in safety and clear-up rates are exactly the same as the year before. He is not prepared to seek improvement.

Time expired.
