



Speech by

**Hon. TOM BARTON**

**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Hansard 10 November 1999

### **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

#### **Break and Enter Offences**

**Hon. T. A. BARTON** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services) (9.47 a.m.), by leave: Over the past few months the Queensland Police Service has been undertaking world-leading research and trials of strategies to combat break and enter offences. Part of this process has been the trial of the Beenleigh break and enter reduction project, which involves police conducting a home security assessment soon after a break and enter crime is reported.

The householder also receives a kit outlining ways to prevent the crime from happening again by securing points of entry, marking property, installing alarm systems and other measures. In addition, neighbours in the immediate vicinity are alerted to the break and enter and advised to take precautions. Police patrols are also increased in areas where burglaries have taken place.

Statistics show that in Queensland a person has a one in 12 chance of being a victim of a residential break and enter crime. However, once they become a victim their chances of becoming a victim again doubles to one in six, which proves the theory that, when it comes to crime, lightning often strikes the same place twice or more.

The Beenleigh project was aimed at providing a comprehensive approach to break and enter offences and preventing repeat offences, not only at the original premises but also at surrounding premises. I am pleased to inform the House that this project will not only be expanded but will be extended to break and enter offences occurring in shops and other commercial premises. Since it is being extended to non-residential premises, it will require a name change to The At Risk Premises project, or TARP. The expansion will take place this month and by February next year TARP should be operating in each of the eight police regions. Priority will be given to those areas which have been identified as having significant break and enter crime levels.

Like the Beenleigh project, TARP will adopt a three-pronged approach to reduce unlawful entry offences involving a value-added police response which aims to prevent repeat victimisation and first-time victimisation through officers conducting security assessments of premises and notifying neighbours of offences; a community partnership approach to prevention by encouraging communities to adopt a range of short and longer-term prevention strategies targeting identified hot spot areas, such as Eagleby within my electorate; and enhanced patrols and other reactive policing methods which target offenders operating within hot spot areas.

TARP is aimed at three principal objectives. It is aimed at: a reduction in the overall incidence of unlawful entry offences against premises; a reduction in the incidence of multiple victimisation; and an enhanced police response to unlawful entry offences. The TARP project is in line with the Beattie Labor Government's election promise of targeting crime hot spots and our overall Crime Prevention Strategy. The expansion has been possible due to a funding allocation of \$497,000 over three years.

Like any crime prevention and proactive policing initiative, it will take time before concrete results flow through. However, what it does show is that the Government and the Police Service are serious about attacking crime and the causes of crime. Break and enters, especially home invasions, cause a great deal of distress amongst victims. The TARP project is aimed at minimising this distress and making it tougher for break and enter merchants to continue their cowardly crimes.