



Speech by

**Hon. T. McGRADY**

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA**

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Hansard 18 October 2001

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Police Resources**

**Hon. T. McGRADY** (Mount Isa—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province) (9.58 a.m.), by leave: I report to the House today on what the Beattie government is doing to fulfil its commitment to be tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime. As members may be aware, the Beattie government takes a whole-of-government approach to crime and crime prevention. We need to have strong enforcement, but we also need to have programs at the grassroots level to attack the causes of crime in our communities.

From an enforcement point of view, we are committed to increasing the number of police officers on the ground. We are doing this by funding a net growth of about 300 police officers each year. In the eight months since 1 February this year, the Beattie government increased police numbers by approximately 220 officers.

In fact, I can report to the House today that as at 1 October this year, we had 7,861 sworn police officers serving the Queensland community. By way of comparison, as at 1 July 1998, under the previous coalition government, Queensland had 6,833 officers. I will repeat those figures: under the Labor government there are 7,861 police officers; under the previous coalition government there were 6,833 officers. That means police numbers have actually been increased by a total of 1,028 officers since the days of the last coalition government. This year we also delivered an \$870 million police operational budget—the largest in Queensland history. However, members opposite and their agents are often quick to criticise this government for not providing enough funding to the police.

To assist our colleagues opposite, last night when I was listening to some of the nonsense and the drivel I did a bit of doodling. I have produced this graph. The two blue columns here, which I understand are very difficult to see, represent the amount of money that was spent during the coalition years, and then from 1988 upwards each year to the current year. This year we are spending a record \$870 million. I wish that the opposition would understand and appreciate the growth in expenditure under the Labor government. I think all backbenchers would do well to examine this graph. It shows spending in the coalition years and in the Labor years.

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