



Speech by

**Hon. T. McGRADY**

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA**

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Hansard 7 November 2001

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Tactical Crime Squads**

**Hon. T. McGRADY** (Mount Isa—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province) (9.55 a.m.), by leave: I would like to inform the House about the progress on the establishment of tactical crime squads across Queensland. One of this government's election commitments was to establish 16 tactical crime squads in regional areas across the state.

As all in this House should know, we are a government that keeps its promises. In accordance with this, I am pleased to announce that not only are the first officers for the first five tactical crime squads set to be in place before Christmas, we have just announced two more new squads for regional Queensland. Mackay and Rockhampton will receive the first seven officers of a 14-officer tactical crime squad by July next year. By Christmas, the first officers will be in place for squads in Townsville, Cairns, Fortitude Valley, Logan, the Gold Coast and, indeed, the Sunshine Coast.

These tactical crime squads will provide a great boost to law enforcement to these areas and complement the work of the local police. The tactical crime squads will consist of 14 officers and will investigate all crime, but with an emphasis placed on property crime and the possession and supply of drugs offences. It must be recognised that regional centres have varying crime problems which require different strategies. These squads will provide a valuable resource to combat local crime problems. The squads will provide assistance to local CIB detectives and, depending on the needs of the community, could also conduct district based special operations into problems such as property offences or, indeed, hooning.

This initiative is a concrete illustration that we are serious about being tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime. In addition to regionally specific operations, the squads will also have the capacity to conduct joint operations where necessary with federal agencies, including Australian customs.

The roll-out of the 16 tactical crime squads during this term will be implemented in three stages. The first officers in the initial five squads will be in place by the end of this year. A further five squads will be developed next year and the final six will be added in the last year of this term. I know the communities where these squads are going to be placed have welcomed the news of this extra policing resource. I am sure these squads will provide a real boost to police in regional and metropolitan areas and will be a key weapon in our fight against crime.

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