



Speech by

**Hon. T. McGRADY**

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA**

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Hansard 5 December 2001

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Police Resources, East Timor**

**Hon. T. McGRADY** (Mount Isa—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province) (10.02 a.m.), by leave: I would like to report to the House today that another three Queensland police officers recently departed to take part in some important work as part of the United Nations peacekeeping efforts in East Timor. The officers will take up service as part of the 7th United Nations civilian police contingent in East Timor, a role that they will remain in for approximately six months.

Amongst the three officers is a detective inspector who will serve as the coordinator for the Australian detachment of the United Nations transitional administration in East Timor. It is the first time a Queensland police officer has been offered this position by the Australian Federal Police. This appointment is an indication of the officer's abilities. It is also a reflection of the distinguished manner in which other Queensland police officers have conducted themselves during their duties in East Timor. My best wishes are with these officers for a successful deployment.

Since May 2000, 12 Queensland Police Service officers have been deployed to East Timor as part of the 4th, 5th and 6th United Nations civilian police contingents. I commend and thank all these officers. As I have said on many occasions before, our Queensland police officers face many inherent risks. The fact that we have officers willing to serve in areas such as East Timor is a credit to their commitment and their professionalism. It cannot be easy spending time away from Australia and time away from family, but these officers have made a courageous decision to engage in the necessary task in a developing part of the world. I am proud to say that the Queensland Police Service is playing a part in the rebuilding of East Timor.

The events of 11 September are a reminder to us all of the importance of upholding democratic ideals and the need to pursue peace in our own region. Peace and freedom are fundamental to our way of life and we must promote them to other nations, particularly in the developing world. Queensland and Australia's role in this important challenge transcends political affiliations, and I trust that all members will join with me in offering best wishes to all police officers who have served or will serve in East Timor.

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