



Speech by

Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Hansard Wednesday, 15 September 2010

POLICE SERVICE

Mr RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (10.40 pm): The members of the Queensland Police Service are people dedicated to the service of the people of Queensland. They are committed to providing high-quality, innovative, progressive and responsive policing services for our community. They are unsung heroes who put their lives on the line every day for our sake and the sake of our communities. The Queensland Police Service is our community's first and last line of defence against illegal and antisocial behaviour. What is more, members of the Queensland Police Service have an unwavering commitment to serve and protect, which means we all live reassured in the fact that community safety is their first priority. The contribution made by police to the day-to-day lives of Queenslanders cannot be underestimated. Nor, as I discovered last week, should we undervalue their expert training or professional capabilities.

Last Thursday I was given the opportunity to witness the skills of our police force firsthand, and they did not disappoint. Along with the member for Yeerongpilly, I attended a demonstration by the Queensland Police Service's Specialist Services Branch. The branch is made up of the Queensland Police Service Negotiator Coordination Unit, Explosive Ordnance Response Team and Special Emergency Response Team, also known as SERT. SERT is essentially the Queensland Police Service's equivalent of an American SWAT team but with an increased range of skills. As I learned, the Queensland Police Service broadly and SERT members specifically are very proud of the fact that the Queensland Special Emergency Response Team is one of the best resourced and best trained special services branches in Australia. For this reason it is not hard to understand why the three-day SERT selection course is regarded as the most difficult and physically demanding course within the Queensland Police Service.

Specifically, SERT provides the Queensland Police Service with a tactical response to terrorist incidents and situations which are potentially violent or exceed the capabilities of general police duties. The team travels state-wide to assist with planned incidents, such as the execution of high-risk searches or arrest warrants or for spontaneously occurring incidents such as sieges involving weapons. The team also provides specialist equipment and skills for low-risk operations such as rural drug searches or a specialist roping capability.

Having witnessed these teams in action, I am very thankful to the Queensland Police Service that they have such highly skilled specialist resources to call on to protect the community in times of large-scale serious threat. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of the police officers in the Caboolture police district and thank them for their service to our community. I am very proud of the work of our police officers and take this opportunity to commend them for their professionalism and hard work.