




Speech by  
**Bill Byrne**

**MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON**

Hansard Friday, 14 September 2012

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## **POLICE COMMISSIONER, APPOINTMENT**

 **Mr BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (8.52 pm): On behalf of the opposition, I rise to congratulate Deputy Commissioner Ian Stewart on his very well-deserved and well-earned promotion to Queensland Police Commissioner. We cannot imagine a more appropriate person to lead our Police Service as it enters a new era—a person well known to Queenslanders, a person who is trusted and admired due in no small part to his leadership during one of our state's darkest hours.

All members will remember Commissioner Stewart as one of the faces we came to know and trust during our summer of natural disasters when large areas of the state were devastated by flood and then, as we thought the worst was behind us, our northern communities were torn apart by Tropical Cyclone Yasi. It was Ian Stewart who, along with our former Premier, took the reins and took control to reassure Queenslanders, to ensure that everyone was safe and to coordinate the most intense rescue and recovery missions in our modern history. During this horrifying time, it was Ian Stewart who stood in front of the television cameras on an hourly basis and, with uncommon compassion, helped to make us feel safe, to keep us informed and, with admirable honesty, to keep Queenslanders abreast of the rapidly unfolding situation. He demonstrated the type of communication skills and compassion and the type of brutal honesty that will hold him in good stead in his new role. Indeed, honesty is the hallmark of Ian Stewart.

Our new commissioner has served the community for almost four decades and will soon lead a Queensland Police Service that is vastly different to the one he joined in the 1970s. He also possesses an understanding and appreciation of the technological challenges ahead in policing, a qualification that stands him in excellent stead to take on the challenges of his new position. He lists as one of his proudest achievements the introduction of the police computer system, QPRIME.

He is a proud participant in social media and regularly corresponds with members of the community via twitter. I mention twitter because on the deputy's profile, he states he is 'passionate about leadership, integrity, justice and team'. These are qualities to which we should all aspire, especially in the areas of integrity and justice. The new commissioner states that he would never accept officers who lie, commit offences or are not true to the oath of office. We commend his commitment in setting a high standard for the officers and staff under his command.

The new commissioner has served in regional areas of Queensland throughout his career. His most recent role was as Deputy Commissioner, Regional Operations and his understanding of the needs of regional Queensland should ensure they will always be well regarded by the new executive. He has also developed important links with our Indigenous and multicultural communities.

The opposition is most pleased to see this appointment and we will support it to the best of our endeavours.