



Speech by


**John Hathaway**

**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

Hansard Thursday, 23 August 2012

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## **POLICE SERVICE, RECRUITS**

 **Mr HATHAWAY** (Townsville—LNP) (3.47 pm). I was honoured to represent our police minister and to attend with my other colleagues from Burdekin and Thuringowa the induction of the latest 40 police recruits into the Queensland Police Service. I also note for the record that it was Commissioner Bob Atkinson's last time as the reviewing officer. He was always a strong advocate for the Queensland Police Service Academy, North Queensland Campus. I note it was his last review after 12 years at the helm.

These newest inductees have completed a selection process that is replete with character checks, interviews, intensive assessment, as well as having to meet strict physical requirements and psychological testing. These most recent of constables also then completed 25 weeks of study and intensive training in firearms, driving, operational skills and tactics, physical education, computers, police policies, procedures and, of course, legislation.

Amongst these 40 new officers were 26 males and 14 females ranging in ages from 20 to 40, with an average age of 29. There were also two graduates of the Queensland Police Services Justice Entry Program of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent. I note also for the House that these newest officers bring with them a variety of educational, tertiary and career experiences and, of course, a breadth of life experience. This can only provide to our Police Service a fresh outlook, angle and enthusiasm for a career in community safety, response and crime prevention. Amongst their number we had a certificate IV in justice administration, a Bachelor of Applied Science—medical, a Bachelor of Engineering, a lifeguard, a childcare worker, a chef, tradies and, of course, coming from a garrison city like Townsville, some six or seven soldiers.

For the benefit of our northern and central region members, I note those newest officers will be welcomed to the following regions: 13 will go to the Cairns district, which should help with the Cairns Crime Action Plan; five will go to Mount Isa, despite the fact that the ALP north-west branch member did not vote for the bill; 10 officers will go to my own City of Townsville; one will go to your City of Gladstone, Madam Deputy Speaker; and, despite the fact that the ALP voted against the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, six officers will go to Mackay and five will go to Rockhampton. I note that the member for Rockhampton is the shadow police minister, so, although he did not support the Police Service, those officers will support him and his city.

Despite the lack of support that those new coppers and their senior mates will get from the ALP, they will continue to make family and personal sacrifices. As we know, regrettably they will go out to serve each day despite the threat to their own life and limb. I was able to remind the officers of their duties, their impeccable integrity, the need to have the highest standards of professionalism and transparency in their accountability and the fact that their duty does not stop at the station but goes 24/7.