



Speech By  
**David Kempton**


**MEMBER FOR COOK**

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Record of Proceedings, 7 August 2014

**MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Moloney, Sergeant M; Port, Mr B**

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (3.24 pm): Sergeant Matt Moloney is the officer in charge of Coen Police Station in remote Cape York. It is fitting this week that I acknowledge this exemplary serving police officer and, in so doing, show my sincere respect to Barry Port. Barry is the last serving Aboriginal tracker employed by the Queensland Police Service who recently retired after serving in excess of 30 years. He epitomised the dedication of trackers not only in their unique tracking skills but in their roles in community work. At Barry's retirement celebration in Coen recently, I was honoured to present him with an award marking his service.

Back to Sergeant Moloney, sworn into service on 12 December 1991. Matt served in Rockhampton, Winton, Thursday Island, Aurukun, Lockhart River and Cairns. Matt had a brief stint in plain clothes in the Juvenile Aid Bureau, investigating offences committed by and against children, later relieving in the Water Police and other Cape York stations including Cooktown, ending up in an OIC position in Coen on 20 August 2012.

Matt realised that 2014, being the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Queensland Police Service, provided a unique opportunity to highlight the contribution of Indigenous people who have served as law enforcement officers, get them some long overdue recognition and highlight the positive interaction between law enforcement and Indigenous people. There is a real history of cooperation between police and Indigenous people in Queensland, and this event gave an opportunity to shine a light on that positive cooperation.

Indigenous trackers have been used by law enforcement almost since the time of first contact. The invaluable law enforcement duties these men provided side by side with European officers should not be underestimated, forgotten or glossed over. These men in the past, and the continued service of Indigenous members of the QPS today, prove that a sense of duty and a concern for law and order is shared by both cultures. At the commemoration ceremony at Coen, Matt Moloney said—

These men, such as Police Tracker Barry Port, have proven their loyal sense of duty to not only the QPS but also to their communities and they have proven, time and time again, their strong desire for law and order is shared by both cultures.

Matt is a copper through and through and completely dedicated to living the values of the Queensland Police Service. Matt has recently won the Churchill Fellowship. I congratulate him for his achievement and wish him a long and distinguished career in the Queensland Police Service.