




Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Law and Order, Funding

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (2.26 pm): I acknowledge in the gallery the students from Pimlico State High School who performed for us earlier today. I am sure that they calmed many a savage beast before question time today.

The government understands that there is nothing more important to Queenslanders than protecting families and keeping them safe and, of course, Treasury has a role to play as well. That is why we are working every day to make sure the state is the safest place in Australia to live, work and raise a family. It is also why we are ensuring we continue to fund vital front-line services that will improve the quality of life for all Queensland families. The 2014-15 state budget is a demonstration of our commitment.

We are delivering for the children in most need of our care and protection, with \$406 million provided to implement the recommendations of the Carmody inquiry into child protection. Better protection of the most vulnerable Queenslanders is a priority for all of us. We are also helping to keep Queenslanders safe by boosting police numbers across the state, including funding for a further 267 officers in 2014-15. In all, the government will fund 1,100 police officers over four years, making all our communities safer places to live. We are also delivering a further \$3 million to continue delivering police helicopter services across South-East Queensland so that our police can respond as quickly as possible when needed. That is another example of the government ensuring our police and emergency services, as the Premier said, have the tools they need to protect the community.

We are also investing in the government wireless network, something that was promised by those opposite for 10 years but never delivered. This year we have committed \$72.5 million to begin the rollout of the network that will secure police, ambulance, fire and emergency officers to the one secure digital network for the first time. The network will progressively roll out in time for the G20 meetings in Cairns and Brisbane, followed by widespread deployments across South-East Queensland.

We want to ensure Queenslanders feel safe on our streets regardless of where they are or how old they are. When young Queenslanders go out to have a good time, we are making the streets safer for them with a \$44.5 million funding boost for the Safe Night Out strategy. Importantly, we are working with local communities to ensure the strategy includes local solutions that work for them.

As Treasurer, I am proud of the way that the government has managed the budget so we could fund those vital services to keep Queenslanders safe. We could do even more if we were not dealing with Labor's financial legacy, the \$4 billion a year of interest; money that cannot be spent on protecting Queenslanders. However, through our strong financial management, we will keep delivering on our pledge to make Queensland the safest place to live, work and raise a family. Only the LNP has a strong plan to revitalise front-line services and ensure our streets are safe and our children are protected.