




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Paris, Terrorist Attacks

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.41 am): In one night of unspeakable atrocity, our world, yet again, has been forever changed. As terrorists opened fire on Paris on 13 November we watched on appalled, horrified and frightened—appalled that human beings could act with such evil; horrified that such brutality could be unleashed against innocent people going about their everyday lives; and frightened that very suddenly bloodshed was once again on our doorstep.

The sickening events of black Friday in the City of Light have shaken the world, not the least because when these terrorists unleashed they targeted people in environments in which each of us expect and deserve to feel safe. They targeted Parisians enjoying dinner at sidewalk cafes, people watching a football match and, most horrendously, young people attending a concert venue.

The images of people fleeing the massacre at the Bataclan theatre will remain etched on our memories forever. We cannot begin to imagine the experience of being there. We cannot imagine the sheer, unthinkable magnitude of the horror. The stories of survival have touched us. The stories of those who perished have appalled us.

I am positive all Queenslanders and every member of this parliament will join me in offering our sincere and heartfelt condolences to those who grieve for lost sons and daughters, husbands, wives and partners, for friends and family members who continue to fight to recover from this atrocity. I am also sure that all Queenslanders will stand with me to condemn the Paris attacks.

We are fortunate to live in a diverse multicultural community where we enjoy a harmony that must be preserved and must be protected. My government is taking steps to help ensure that we live in a safe society. Personally, the images of the massacre in Paris—of people shot dead as they ate, of teenagers fleeing in terror from that nightclub, of shocked families searching for missing relatives—will stay with me for a long, long time. As the city and the country and the world heals, my government sends its deepest sympathies. I move—

That the House take note of the statement.