




Speech By
Jennifer Howard

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Record of Proceedings, 15 July 2015

MOTION: IPSWICH POLICE COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (6.17 pm): I am opposing this motion on the basis that I support consultation. During the three years that the Newman government was in power—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Order, members! The member does not have a loud voice and I think she has a cold. I would ask you to be tolerant and allow her to speak, otherwise leave the chamber.

Ms HOWARD: During the three years that the Newman government was in power in Queensland, the people of Ipswich were forgotten. The region was taken for granted and we suffered from the callous and harsh decisions made by Campbell Newman and his arrogant cabinet. Many of those same ministers are still sitting in this House. The people of Ipswich will not forget and neither will I.

At the state election we promised to be a listening government, we promised to be a government of openness and accountability and we promised to be a government of consultation. We promised that we would not pick unnecessary fights and that we would show the people some common courtesy—courtesy that was not afforded even once during the long, dark three-year reign of the LNP.

This has been an important issue for my community. I want to place on the record my deep appreciation for the hard work that the Ipswich police do to keep our community safe. Unlike the LNP, we are not about playing politics with the livelihoods of hardworking public servants. When people began to raise this issue with me, it was clear to me that further consultation needed to be undertaken. That is why I requested a meeting with the police minister so that we could ensure that this happened.

I want to thank the police minister for taking the time to speak with me about the issue and her and the Premier for committing to further consultation. At the end of the day we all want the same thing: a modern and vibrant Police Service for the people of Ipswich. I also thank the Queensland Police Service for its commitment today to ensuring that further consultation with the relevant unions and stakeholders continues. I thank the police minister for making it clear to the commissioner that if police communications centres relocate it needs to be consistent with this government's pledge to protect Public Service jobs and, importantly, that there be no net job losses for the people of Ipswich. This would be achieved by putting additional police on the beat in Ipswich. No-one will be losing their jobs. Options will be provided for any staff who wish to remain in Ipswich to transition to other roles in the local area. This is just the beginning of staff consultation.

The consolidation of communications centres is designed to leverage the benefits of new technology, such as the government wireless network, to ensure the best possible policing response for Queenslanders. I get that. We do not want Ipswich to fall behind. We want the people of Ipswich to stay safe and we want Ipswich officers to stay safe too. But what is very curious is that I understand the decision to relocate the Ipswich communications centre was actually made under the LNP government.

No-one made a sound then. The Leader of the Opposition and the member for Kawana are shedding crocodile tears. They do not care about consultation. They never have. The Palaszczuk government is committed to our police, committed to the Ipswich community and is a listening and consultative government and that is why we will continue to work with the police unions and the people of Ipswich so that we can find a resolution in the best interests of all concerned.