



Speech By  
**Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 December 2015

**MOTION**

**Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services**

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (6.07 pm): Over the past nine months since the member for Bundamba has been sworn in as the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services in the Palaszczuk Labor government, she has been working tirelessly. I have seen that in my own electorate. Not that long ago, the minister attended a ceremonial presentation of a 10-year meritorious service award to Senior Constable Dan Loth along with Assistant Commissioner Bob Gee. So I can attest to her actions and her involvement in the community.

The minister has also been keeping our Queensland community safe. Since the election earlier this year this has been said many times, but it bears repeating tonight: the three years of the LNP government in Queensland were tough on many across the state. That goes for every single one of the dedicated women and men whom the minister represents in this place as the minister. In the months since 31 January, the LNP members have been busy in a manner of speaking but, sadly, what they have been busy flies in the face of every message that the Queensland people sent them at the election. Have they been busy developing policies? No. Have they been busy mending the bridges they burned with nearly every stakeholder group across the state? Definitely not. Have they been busy learning from their defeat? It certainly does not look like it, does it?

Were they busy during estimates? The shadow minister for police could not even ask a proper question in estimates that was suitable under the standing orders in this place. For the last nine months of the LNP government they were busy playing nasty, divisive and personal politics. But what else would you expect from those opposite. This stands in stark contrast to the approach taken by us on this side of the House. The minister has hit the ground running because that is what the people of Queensland expect from their government. The minister recognises that money spent on police and emergency services is an investment in lives and quality of life for Queenslanders. That is the difference between us and those opposite.

Just a few sitting weeks ago the minister stood in this House to announce that the crime rate in Queensland has continued its decade-long downward trend and has remained relatively stable over the last financial year. I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to have a fortnightly meeting with the officer in charge of the Ferry Grove Police Station, Acting Senior Sergeant Rob Colthrope. We discuss the crime statistics in Ferry Grove. It is humbling to see the reduction of crime over the period of time since this government has been in place. Queensland continues to be a safer place to live, work and visit than it was 10 years ago. The crime rate has dropped by 12 per cent since 2005-06, continuing its decade-long downward trend. The reinstatement of the Queensland Police Service annual statistical review was an important plank of the Palaszczuk Labor government's measures to restore integrity and accountability to government and the minister was at the heart of that.

The LNP has a shameful track record of misrepresenting crime statistics for political gain. We know the LNP cherrypicked statistics to suit themselves, but that is not how this minister operates. That Queensland is a safer place now—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr FURNER:** Listen up. That Queensland is a safer place now than it was 10 years ago is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our women and men in blue who I used to represent and I am proud to know that you were a police officer yourself, Mr Speaker. Since we were elected the minister has delivered 250 new police officers to hit the beat across Queensland. Under the minister's leadership we have begun the rollout of body worn video cameras on our front-line officers. That is providing results by capturing images to assist in apprehending offenders in circumstances where the men and women in our Police Service put themselves in danger to protect fellow Queenslanders. The minister fast-tracked the rollout of 300 new body worn video cameras on the Gold Coast, unlike the LNP who sat idly by while police officers were left to purchase their own body worn video cameras. The minister will not allow that. We have delivered as a Labor Palaszczuk government to make sure that our women and men in blue are protected with all the measures they can possibly have.

**Mr Langbroek** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Thank you. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you will soon have your chance to speak.