




Speech By
Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2016

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (5.18 pm): I rise to commend to the House the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's report on the budget estimates for the 2016-17 financial year covering the portfolios of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills and the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services. I also commend the ministers' departmental officers for their contribution and the hard work that they did in respect of the preparation of the budget estimates. I also commend the deputy chair of the committee and the other members of the committee for their hard work and their contributions. Finally, I also thank the committee secretariat, other officers of the Parliamentary Service and Hansard for their assistance.

One particular area I want to focus on is the continual process of methodical implementation of the justice system for initiatives in relation to the domestic and family violence task force *Not now, not ever* report. I do that on the basis of being a white ribbon ambassador. I am very happy with the contribution this Palaszczuk Labor government is committing to this area: funding of \$54.6 million over the next four years, including \$5.6 million across the department to support domestic and family violence initiatives. This forms part of the government's overall package of \$198.2 million over five years. It is a significant amount of funding for a particular area of concern in our communities. It will support the delivery of specialist domestic and family violence courts which we already see in operation on the Gold Coast. It will also support the Women's Legal Service helpline for victims of domestic violence, establish a Queensland sexual assault counselling privilege legal assistance service and ensure that Queensland magistrates receive ongoing contemporary professional development on domestic and family violence issues, including the impacts of domestic and family violence.

To slightly digress, recently I was privileged to have the Attorney-General in the electorate of Ferry Grove at a community forum on domestic violence. It was very well attended by stakeholders. The feedback was overwhelming of the benefit of having had the opportunity for people to come forward to hear what this government is doing in relation to domestic violence and the continual rollout of legislation dealing with the *Not now, not ever* report.

I now turn to the other portfolio areas for our committee, that is, Police, Fire and Emergency Services. It is great to see a government that is committed to restoring front-line services by putting 300 extra police on the front line. This government is concerned about tackling organised crime, ensuring that we put enough people on the ground to make sure we address this issue. It adds to the 1,100 police over the next four years, in addition to all those other front-line services such as 1,940 nurses and 940 teachers. It is a demonstration of our commitment to make sure that our front-line services are adequate in terms of addressing the result from the previous government of the dismissal of over 14,000 workers. It certainly demonstrates our commitment in respect to policing.

We heard from the minister of the additional 2,200 body worn cameras. I had the privilege last week to represent the minister at an awards ceremony and heard very concerning stories that people were awarded bravery awards on the basis of the crime that they had prevented as a result of dealing with serious criminals in circumstances where they put themselves selflessly beyond the call of duty in terms of addressing and capturing those particular criminals. No doubt the addition of body worn cameras will assist greatly in capturing the evidence and also what is occurring in our community to make sure that our community is safe and secure in their homes and on the streets in their area.