




Speech By
Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Queensland Police Union of Employees, Enterprise Bargaining Agreement

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (12.30 pm): I rise today to make a contribution about enterprise bargaining agreements. As you would know Madam Deputy Speaker, enterprise bargaining agreements have been around for some time. In fact, they were first introduced in Australia by the Hawke Labor government under the Prices and Income Accord Mark VII in 1991. Employers and their employees have, since that time, been able to create and provide for better flexibility and efficiency and wages growth. They have benefited from this Labor initiative.

The particular enterprise agreement I wish to reflect upon today is the agreement struck between the Queensland Police Union of Employees and the Palaszczuk government. I am informed that the overwhelming majority of members of the QPUE approved of the agreement and that almost 100 per cent of members who voted endorsed the agreement. I know the new police minister, the Hon. Mark Ryan, would be pleased with that sort of result. I am sure the previous police minister, the Hon. Bill Byrne, would also be satisfied with the outcomes that have been achieved through this negotiation. As an example, one of the local police at Ferny Grove Sergeant Rob Colthrope certainly identified that there was overwhelming acceptance of the agreement amongst members at the Ferny Grove Police Station.

I turn to the September edition of the *Queensland Police Union Journal* which also indicates the success and acceptance of this agreement. Firstly, the president, Ian Leavers, said that he spoke with Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and she made an enterprise bargaining offer to the QPU. The executive unanimously endorsed it immediately having seen the agreement that was put on the table. He stated—

This offer demonstrates that this Government is doing the right thing by police and their families and that they care about our wages, conditions, and trying to find a work/life balance ...

That is always a challenge in the Police Service. I speak from experience of my time as an industrial officer of the union where I represented the good men and women of the Queensland Police Service. Peter Thomas, an executive member of the union, stated—

The timeliness of reaching agreement was due to the Palaszczuk Government approaching the negotiation table prepared, and with a respect for what we do as police on a daily basis.

We should always remind ourselves of the work the good men and women of the Queensland Police Service do. They do a difficult job. They are out there 24/7 looking after our communities and looking after our constituents and making sure that we are safe in our homes and on our roads. Bill Feldman, another executive, indicated—

THE QPU MAY HAVE JUST HAD ITS FIRST CHRISTMAS IN JULY.

WE NEED TO ASK—IS THERE REALLY A SANTA CLAUS?

It appears that Santa Anastacia has come to town and her two helpers, elves Jackie and Bill, have checked their lists twice, found out that all the boys and girls in blue have been good this year ...

He went on further to say—

The Campbell Newman and Tim Nicholls Grinches had stolen Christmas in July in 2013, but Santa Annastacia was making it up this year.

...

What a sight that must have been for Santa Annastacia and her little helpers; never before had Labor seen the QPS and QPU so happy with Christmas in July from their side of Government.

He went on to also indicate—

I am quite humbled by the fact that this Government has listened and heard what many of us have been crying out for, some of us for many years.

...

This is one of the only articles I have written in eight years where I have been able to give the Government praise for their acknowledgement of the hardworking officers in blue.

He continued—

I thank the Premier and her Ministers for their resolve to not only be good financial stewards for this state but to put some of those financial incentives where they were sorely needed.

The Palaszczuk government is restoring front-line services for Queensland communities. We are employing more police. We are employing more firefighters, ambulance officers and child safety officers in our communities.

Conversely, we contrast this with the very mediocre opposition. They are lazy. They have no plans for the people of Queensland. The LNP believe they have employed too many public servants. The LNP needs to nominate what schools, teachers, hospitals, how many doctors and nurses, police, firefighters, ambulance officers and child safety officers they will cut if they ever get into government again. Do not forget that Tim Nicholls cut 14,000 government workers in his first budget.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! I ask the member to refer to members by their proper title.

Mr FURNER: The member for Clayfield cut 14,000 government workers in his first budget and now believes the Public Service—

(Time expired)