




Speech By
Hon. Bill Byrne

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.14 pm): Twelve months ago, we came to government with a plan to protect jobs and to keep Queenslanders safe by delivering front-line services to build safe, caring and connected communities.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Minister. Order, members! We will listen to the minister in silence, unless he is being provocative.

Mr BYRNE: Merry Christmas to the opposition. We have started the way we ended last year. We are investing more than \$2 billion to keep Queenslanders safe. We are spending more than \$28 million to provide 266 additional police and we are well on track to meet our election commitment to increase police numbers by the end of June this year. We are giving police and QFES staff the resources they need to do the best job they can to keep Queenslanders safe. We have invested \$6 million in body worn video cameras for police officers on the front line. More than 300 body worn video camera devices have already been put out on the Gold Coast, with more to follow across the state. This is not just a matter of providing resources, but also of making sure that their use is efficient and effective.

That is why today I can advise the House that the Public Service Commission has completed an independent review of the Public Safety Business Agency. The review has recommendations that will revitalise and restore public safety support services and, importantly, put them back where they belong with their agencies, that is, the Queensland Police Service and the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. Many members of this House know full well my thoughts regarding the Keilty review and the formation of the PSBA. I have been consistent since day 1 of the last parliament. The former government's agenda was clearly to drive outsourcing and privatisation through the PSBA. Therefore, the Palaszczuk government committed to conducting this review to determine whether the PSBA was effectively supporting public safety service delivery for Queenslanders.

This government will restore efficient QPS and QFES service delivery of core functions. The core recommendations of the report will be in place by 1 July 2016, including the return of such functions as the operational functions, strategy, recruitment, education and training, local workforce health and safety, ethical standards, media services, right to information, ministerial services and cabinet legislative liaison. Some aspects of the process may require work beyond 1 July. However, we will be working hard to action all the recommendations as soon as practicable. It is important to note that the report also found some value in continuing to operate a shared portfolio model for corporate service to enable the QPS and the Fire and Emergency Services to focus on what they do best, which is delivering

community safety services for Queensland. While the review's findings will lead to some changes of staff, these will be undertaken in line with the Palaszczuk government's commitment to public sector employment security, which is an amazing concept for those opposite.

I am confident that this report will be welcomed by police and firefighters right across the state. From the discussions and meetings I have had across Queensland—in fact, virtually every one that I have had—police officers and firefighters at all levels ask me the same question. As recently as this morning, the first question asked was, what are we doing about the PSBA? We are doing exactly what we said we would do. Today I am happy to announce the completion of this PSBA review. I am confident that changes identified in the review will achieve a more effective support service system for the men and women who work hard to keep Queenslanders safe. I table the report.

Tabled paper: Public Service Commission: Review of the Public Safety Business Agency, November 2015 [[170](#)].