




Speech By
Hon. Bill Byrne

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Police and Emergency Services, Recruitment

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.58 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to creating jobs in Queensland. We are on track and on target to deliver an extra 266 police officers by the end of June this year. Today I am pleased to announce that police strength in Queensland has grown by 1,080 officers and planned police recruitment activities are on track to meet our election commitments to Queenslanders.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BYRNE: The opposition might like to listen to this for a moment. Across South-East Queensland 103 officers have been posted to Brisbane, 23 officers to the Moreton district, 24 officers in Ipswich, 10 to the Sunshine Coast, 22 in Logan, 31 on the Gold Coast and 17 new police officers on the Darling Downs. Some 31 officers have joined the ranks in Townsville; 35 in Cairns and other parts of Northern Queensland; 13 in Mackay; 38 across the Capricornia district, including 23 in my home town of Rockhampton; 33 in Wide Bay; eight in Mount Isa; and two in the south-west district. And it does not stop there. Since February 2015 more than 97 new firefighters have joined Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

Not only have we been taking on more emergency service workers; we are equipping them and training them with the skills and equipment that they need to do the job they do best—looking after the safety of Queenslanders. We have set aside more than \$9 million for Fire and Emergency Services facilities in regional Queensland: \$4 million towards a replacement fire and rescue station in Bundaberg, \$350,000 for the relocation and upgrade of the auxiliary fire and rescue station in Cunnamulla, \$250,000 for the relocation and upgrade of the auxiliary fire and rescue station at Gordonvale, \$600,000 for the relocation and upgrade of the fire and rescue station at Roma, \$600,000 to upgrade the auxiliary fire and rescue station at Dayboro, and almost \$1 million for amenities in 23 fire and rescue stations across regional Queensland.

This funding is about more than bricks and mortar; it is about providing emergency services personnel with the equipment, resources and infrastructure that they need to do their job. The Palaszczuk government remains committed to ensuring that while Queensland emergency services workers are looking after Queenslanders we are behind them, supporting them, every step of the way.