




Speech By
Hon. Bill Byrne

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mount Isa, Police

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.37 pm): I am pleased to speak today about the great work being undertaken by police, emergency services and corrective services staff in Mount Isa and Western Queensland. I have been fortunate to spend time in Mount Isa and Western Queensland throughout my time in the ministry. My most recent visit included Mount Isa, Cloncurry, Longreach and Charleville—four fantastic communities with distinct histories and a vibrant future. It is clear that it takes a distinct calibre of person to thrive amid the challenges of Western Queensland. The Mount Isa district stretches from the South Australian border up along the Northern Territory border and into the Cape and Mornington Island. I take this opportunity to commend our hardworking police, State Emergency Service personnel, emergency services generally and correctional services officers and volunteers in this vast area, and I also thank them for their hospitality when they were showing me their ‘patch’.

The Mount Isa community will be losing a pillar of their community in the coming weeks with the retirement of Superintendent Russell Miller. Superintendent Miller started his career with the Queensland Police Service in 1976. His lifetime of service has seen him posted across the state from Gympie to being officer in charge of the Brisbane City Station and operating the Pine Rivers District before becoming the district officer in Mount Isa for the last four years.

By all accounts he has become a real community leader and his career demonstrates that. Superintendent Miller has led the community through several tragedies. Members will recall the awful caravan explosion last July that claimed three lives. Instances like this remind us all that policing is not a nine-to-five job. Officers and staff are called upon to embrace challenges that few others would and to see things that other members of the community would never wish to see. I join with other members of the House in thanking him for his service to Queensland, most recently Western Queensland. The challenges of the service are distinct but so are its achievements.