




Speech By
Hon. Bill Byrne

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Aurukun

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.15 pm): The Queensland Police Service has established an around-the-clock policing presence in Aurukun to maintain safety and security in that community. Fourteen uniformed officers, a detective and a police liaison officer are currently in Aurukun. Five police officers, including Tactical Crime Squad officers, were swiftly dispatched to Aurukun after the recent incident involving the school principal. Police rosters have been reconfigured to ensure a strong police presence at night. The cape inspector will be based in Aurukun for the next week to provide strategic leadership and enhanced community connections. I am informed that police are conducting patrols of the school and the teachers' residences. I understand that police are working closely with the mayor, community leaders and other stakeholders.

I am awaiting further advice from the Police Commissioner in relation to this recent incident. The commissioner has assured me that police will do all they can to maintain calm in the community. There is no place for acts of violence in any community, including in remote areas where policing can be challenging. I commend police officers on the front line in Aurukun and in other isolated and remote communities. Their job is not nine to five, it is not easy and it can be dangerous. For that we owe the police and their families a great debt of gratitude.

All three tiers of government have a role in keeping the communities safe. Local, state and federal governments have contributed \$1.3 million to the upgrade of Aurukun's closed-circuit TV system. These 18 digital cameras will be placed in strategic positions to deter acts of violence and antisocial and offending behaviour. Importantly, the cameras can be monitored from the police station.

The Queensland and federal governments also funded the refurbishment of the Aurukun sports hall at the police citizens youth club. Three additional police officers will take up duties at the PCYC in Aurukun tomorrow to deliver activities for the local children. Police manage the PCYC supported by two police liaison officers and two Indigenous sport and recreation officers.

The issues facing Aurukun are complex, and the Queensland Police Service remains committed to working with the community to achieve the best possible outcomes.