




Speech By
Hon. Bill Byrne

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Police Service

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.32 pm): I am pleased to advise the House that, as of last Friday, the number of officers in the Queensland Police Service was above the headcount required to achieve the targeted commitment of an additional 1,100 officers. With more officers graduating in June this year, the Queensland Police Service will end the financial year comfortably above the 1,100 growth target. Thirty-eight new recruits are expected to graduate in Townsville in mid-June. There are also 144 new recruits in other intakes across the state.

I am also pleased to report that the Police Commissioner's aspirational target of 50 per cent female recruitment was achieved in recent recruit intakes. In the March intake, 52 per cent of the new recruits were female, followed by 50 per cent of female recruits in the May intake. I know that the Queensland Police Service has been actively encouraging more women to consider a career in policing, and I commend the commissioner for initiating and taking on this challenge. Both the Queensland Police Service and the community stand to benefit from an increased presence of women on the front line. A more balanced and diverse police organisation means a more reflective service for Queenslanders.

Not only is the Palaszczuk government delivering more police; we are giving them the resources and equipment they need to get on with the job. We have rolled out 300 body worn video cameras to front-line police on the Gold Coast ahead of a broader statewide rollout. Under the previous government, police were forced to buy their own body worn camera devices. When the LNP was in government they obscured the release of annual crime statistics. As a result, no-one really knew the level of crime in their local community.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BYRNE: It is a fact. In the interests of transparency and accountability, Labor reinstated the annual statistical review so that Queenslanders would have a clear picture of what is going on in their community.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BYRNE: They do not want to hear the truth. These statistics speak volumes about the efforts of hardworking police in targeting crime and keeping our communities safe.