



Speech By  
**Hon. Bill Byrne**


**MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2016

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Budget, Fire and Emergency Services and Corrective Services**

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.41 pm): The Palaszczuk government went to the election with a commitment to keep Queenslanders safe, and the 2016-17 budget for police, Fire and Emergency Services and Corrective Services is one way we are delivering on that commitment. The amount of \$69.9 million has been set aside to target serious organised crime, and this includes \$39.1 million in additional funding over four years. It reinforces the Palaszczuk government's resolve to target serious and organised crime in all of its forms: drug trafficking, child exploitation, boiler room fraud and outlaw criminal motorcycle gangs. The extra funds will ensure that police have the resources they need to undertake operational and intelligence-driven activities, legislative reform and education and training. There is \$32 million for new and replacement police vehicles for front-line police officers and \$98.9 million to upgrade police facilities, information system and communications. These services and these resources are designed to support the Queensland police in what they do best: keeping Queenslanders safe.

The Palaszczuk government's commitment in the 2016-17 budget also supports our front-line fire and emergency services officers with \$74 million for new facilities, upgrades, new appliances and communications equipment. Funds have also been allocated for fuel and maintenance for Rural Fire Service vehicles—a measure that has been very warmly received by the rurals.

We are also addressing overcrowding in prisons. Under the previous government prisoner numbers rose by almost 30 per cent in Queensland. The budget has allocated an additional \$88.5 million over five years to make safe those older style secure cells at the Borallon Training and Correctional Centre. This funding will see the remaining 244 cells recommissioned. Borallon will be a tough new training facility for young prisoners to get their lives on track and discourage them from returning to their old habits. The amount of \$20.5 million has been set aside over two years to support the Probation and Parole Service. There is \$1 million for a business case to expand the Capricornia Correctional Centre and \$5 million to develop a business case for a counterterrorism centre at the Westgate Police Academy.

These initiatives in the public safety portfolio budget represent a significant body of work. It is our plan for the future. It is about delivering infrastructure, strengthening regional economies, supporting front-line officers and protecting jobs. I look forward to working with all of my agencies and delivering on these key projects. I thank officers, volunteers and stakeholders for their service and support.