




Speech By
Hon. Bill Byrne

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (3.00 pm): The Palaszczuk government is committed to keeping Queenslanders safe. It was a commitment we took to the last election. It is a commitment we are delivering on. We have achieved great outcomes for Queenslanders over the last 18 months. Let us look at some of the numbers that we have brought forward.

A total of 266 new police were delivered in 2015-16 and 2,200 body worn video cameras were rolled out across the state in addition to the 500 already in service—tested, trialled, procured and delivered. There is over \$39 million to tackle organised crime in addition to the \$3.2 million to fund Taskforce Orion. That is a great set of numbers. There is \$16.2 million to improve counterterrorism capabilities including operational equipment. This is something I am particularly proud of: we have risen above the populist myths and industry self-interest to take responsible, evidence based action on alcohol fuelled violence. Our comprehensive approach has been backed by extensive funding.

We know that effective policing needs community support and input. That is why we have introduced community policing boards in every police district across the state. They are meeting already and succeeding, generating very positive new ideas to addressing local issues in a local environment. We have reformed the Public Safety Business Agency in line with our election commitments and criticisms from opposition, backing our front-line staff to make the right decisions.

Our government has delivered for Fire and Emergency Services over the last 18 months. There is greater recognition of auxiliary firefighters through an auxiliary award, additional fuel and maintenance to support rural firefighters who are doing a great job across our state—and, again, that was very warmly received by the rural fireys—and, importantly, supporting women in the Fire Service through the implementation of the Allison review recommendations.

We are taking responsible action to manage the capacity issues in Queensland correctional centres and keep staff safe. There are legacy issues that will impact on Queensland taxpayers and communities for a generation. The Palaszczuk government has recognised and begun addressing those evident challenges. We are investing in smarter programs to reduce recidivism and re-admission and enhance capital works.

Promised, committed, delivered—that is our approach. There is more to be done and we are getting on with it. We will be working with Queenslanders to keep them safe.