




Speech By
Hon. Bill Byrne

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Gold Coast, Police Resources

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.24 pm): The Palaszczuk government remains committed to keeping all Queenslanders safe. We recognise the critical role the men and women of the Queensland Police Service are taking in tackling crime and dysfunction in our communities. Our government recognises that each part of Queensland has a unique community and each one represents a unique challenge for policing. In this challenging environment, police face increasing scrutiny and nowhere is this more evident than on the Gold Coast.

The Palaszczuk government is delivering safer communities on the Gold Coast. This morning on the Gold Coast I met with Assistant Commissioner Brian Codd and other senior police about our government's tough new laws to tackle serious organised crime. Those laws will be the most robust, the most stringent and the most rigorous in the country. They will target all kinds of serious organised crime, not just outlaw motorcycle gangs but also child exploitation, sex exploitation, drug trafficking and boiler room fraud. We are backing up the new laws by giving police the funding and resources they need, including an additional \$39.1 million over four years, to disrupt and dismantle organised crime across Queensland.

We are seeing the results of our investment and intervention. Since we came to government, 24 additional police officers have hit the beat on the Gold Coast. Last year, 300 body worn cameras were rolled out to front-line police on the Gold Coast. This financial year we have funded the rollout of 2,700 more body worn cameras to front-line police across the state. We have a new police leadership team on the Gold Coast, which is delivering great results and boosting confidence. We have established our now community policing boards across Queensland, linking local communities with local police. An extension of PolAir for the next six years will deliver aerial support for important police operations and surveillance. Our investment in front-line police is backed by strong new laws from our government—laws that are carefully crafted to crush organised crime and outlaw motorcycle gangs right across Queensland.