




Speech By
Hon. Bill Byrne

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Record of Proceedings, 13 September 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Townsville, Youth Crime

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.15 am): Police in Townsville continue to be actively engaged in targeted enforcement activities to tackle youth offending. The Tactical Crime Squad and the Townsville RAP conduct high-visibility patrols and case-manage offenders on court offered curfews. We have established Project Booyah, which aims to prevent antisocial behaviour, substance abuse and offending by at-risk young people. It is about addressing their disengagement from their family, community and education. There is the police intervention initiative, whereby police prosecutors seek orders aimed at better supervision of young people before the courts and helping parents and carers manage the offending behaviour of young people in their care. We have school based police officers, Adopt-a-School and Adopt-a-Cop programs that provide a vital link between police and young people.

Last week I met with police on the ground in Townsville to ensure they have the resources they need to tackle juvenile crime. We have established a mobile police facility in key areas to ensure a high-visibility policing presence in those communities. Fifteen new police recruits will be deployed to Townsville when they graduate from the academy at the end of the year. We have delivered 20 additional police to Townsville since we have come to government. There are more police in Townsville than ever before.

Police have had significant successes with operations Lorry, Enchase and Conflate, with 1,990 charges against 606 offenders this year and 2,446 charges against 694 offenders last year. Also, 138 body worn cameras will be rolled out to front-line police officers in Townsville in the coming months. We have established a community policing board to give to the local community direct access and the opportunity to work with police on local justice issues.

I commend the Queensland Police Service officers involved, particularly for their unwavering efforts to keep Queenslanders safe. We know that by working at the grassroots level we are well placed and will be well placed to achieve the best outcomes for Townsville and all Queensland's communities.