




Speech By
Hon. Bill Byrne

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Firefighters Remembrance Day, National Police Remembrance Day; Queensland Police Service Annual Statistical Review

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.39 pm): I take this opportunity to inform the House of two very significant and solemn days which recently occurred, Firefighters Remembrance Day and National Police Remembrance Day. Monday was Firefighters Remembrance Day, the day when all Queenslanders pay tribute to our fallen firefighters and remember the firefighters around Queensland who are prepared to put their lives on the line each and every day to keep Queenslanders safe. Commemorative services were held around the state for the broader community to come together and recognise and honour those who have tragically lost their lives and those who still serve. A total of 51 firefighters have lost their lives in the line of duty since 1877.

On 29 September we commemorated National Police Remembrance Day and paid tribute to the 143 fallen Police Service officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Across the state services, marches and vigils were held to remember those officers who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the community they served. It was a moment to remember the Queensland Police Service members who are no longer with us. While, fortunately, no officers were lost in the line of duty over the course of the past year, a historical review of police records resulted in three names being added to the police honour roll. We honour the work of our firefighters and police officers.

Recently the Police Commissioner and I released the Queensland Police Service Annual Statistical Review. It showed the comprehensive work of the Queensland Police Service including the additional 266 police who joined the service last financial year. The statistical review shows that there has been a six per cent increase in the overall crime rate in Queensland. I stepped through this in detail during the release of the report.

Much can be made from annual statistics. By way of comparison, I compared the crime statistics from the first year of the former Newman government against the first full year of our government. There are some revealing comparisons. For example, in 2012-13 there were 30 per cent more robberies in Queensland; there were 31 per cent more unlawful entries; there were 73 per cent more manslaughter charges; there were 52 per cent more driving causing death charges; and there were 24 per cent more unlawful use of a motor vehicle charges compared to the first year of our government. On the other side of the coin, during the same periods of comparison, drug offences have increased 54 per cent; weapon offences have increased 50 per cent; and breaches of domestic violence orders have increased 72 per cent. These numbers affirm my observations that accompanied the release of the statistics. In the past, people would have closed their doors and windows to domestic violence. Now people are prepared to report and have confidence in the system. This is the signature of this government's efforts.

I again express this government's support for the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services officers and their ongoing efforts on behalf of us all.