




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2017

MOTION

Emergency Services Personnel

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.05 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'House' be deleted and the following words inserted:

'notes that the Palaszczuk Labor government has adopted policies to protect front-line emergency services workers in Queensland, including:

- the provision of an additional 225 ambulance officers with 115 more this financial year;
- initiating the Paramedic Safety Taskforce and adopting all 15 recommendations, including additional situation awareness training and covert duress alarm systems installed in all ambulances;
- increasing the number of police officers by more than 300, bringing the total number of permanent police positions to 11,880 as of August 2017;
- the rollout of 5,400 QLites to the QPS;
- a commitment for 1,000 new and replacement police vehicles;
- funding for 5,100 body worn cameras for the QPS;
- investing resources to build greater police officer skills, including active armed offender training;
- expanding the QFES to 3,280 FTE positions, including the placement of 27 extra QFES self-funded front-line firefighters to the reserve roster;
- the allocation of \$3.8 million to fund fuel and maintenance for our Rural Fire Service—RFS—brigades; and
- fully funding the Accelerated Rural Fire Fleet Program to replace 60 RFS vehicles this financial year.'

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order. The amendment that the minister refers to is clearly out of order. It fundamentally changes the motion before the House in a way that is indisputable. The motion before the House calls for a debate on the LNP's policy. The government is quite at liberty to reject that motion if it so desires. The amendment seeks to outline the government's claimed credits. The government can move that motion if it so desires, but it cannot move it as an amendment to the motion before the House.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise on the point of order. Mr Speaker, as you know it has been the practice of the government to canvass any amendments that it might seek to make to motions during the 6 pm debates with you and seek your guidance. As has occurred on this occasion, it has been drawn to your attention that the amendment seeks to improve the motion in the way that it deals with the issue of adopting policies to protect front-line emergency services workers, which is, in essence, what the motion is about and, in essence, what the amendment is about. It is an improvement to the motion and not a negation, which is an issue that you have made rulings on in the past.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. I have considered this matter. I find that it is an amendment. It is not a negation of the motion that has been moved.

Mr RYAN: There is nothing more important to me than the safety of the brave, hardworking people for whom I am responsible as the minister. It is a fundamental duty that I take very seriously. It informs every possible funding decision that I make as minister, as confirmed by the record resourcing that the Palaszczuk Labor government has provided for our emergency services since taking office.

I am very proud to be the minister for the men and women of the Police Service, Fire and Emergency Services and Corrective Services, who every day put their lives on the line to protect us all. I love my job, because every day I get to talk to these real-life everyday heroes. To suggest that the Palaszczuk government has not done everything in its power to protect our front-line workers is not just offensive; it is demonstrably wrong.

This government has maintained the tough penalties against the perpetrators of assaults against our police officers and emergency services workers and our Corrective Services workers. We have invested more than \$46 million in front-line skills training facilities, such as the counterterrorism and community safety training centre at Wacol. We have provided our police with the necessary training and protective equipment that they need to do their jobs, such as weapon mounted light systems, improved holsters and tactical first-aid training. We have invested in the rollout of body worn cameras, which we know will deter further violence against police.

Currently, a charge of serious assault carries a penalty of seven years in prison and up to 14 years if it includes aggravated circumstances such as biting, spitting, bodily harm, or pretending to be armed. The LNP's new-found concern for the safety of our front-line emergency service staff would be more believable if it were not out there doing dirty deals with One Nation, advocating for weaker firearms laws, denigrating the Queensland Police Service's Weapons Licensing branch and consulting on the LNP's policy with a renowned gun law anarchist. Of course, I refer to the infamous interview by the member for Everton that he did recently with the Shooters Union of Australia—an international affiliate of the US pro gun lobby, the National Rifle Association, which has the stated goal of destroying John Howard's National Firearms Agreement.

The member for Everton's confusion about community safety has him both attacking the Palaszczuk government for being too soft on crime, apparently, and in the next breath complaining about having too many prisoners in jail. The member for Everton even blamed the uncomfortable conditions inside prisons for prisoners wanting to escape. Perhaps if the member for Everton ever visited a correctional centre he would know that they are not very nice places, and nor should they be.

The LNP has absolutely no credibility when it comes to following through on the many ill-conceived promises it makes from the safety of opposition. The LNP talk big, but only the Palaszczuk government has a record of fulfilling the commitments it makes to the people of Queensland. Let us have a close look at what we have delivered over our term in government that supports our police and emergency services workers. We have rolled out body worn cameras to our front line. Our rollout of body worn cameras is the third biggest in the world. What did those opposite do when they were in government? They forced our police officers to buy their own body worn cameras, forcing our front-line officers to invest their own money to keep them safe.

Our government backs our front line and our government backs them with safety devices like body worn cameras. We have also rolled out new equipment to our police officers, including new holsters, new long arms, magazines and additional tasers. We continue to support our police officers in that respect. We back our firefighters. We have guided legislation through this House which provides presumptive legislation for our firefighters to ensure that if they have a fire related cancer they will be covered with compensation. This is a government that does not talk the talk; we walk the walk. We fund our commitments. Those opposite never fund their own rhetoric. They come in here pontificating. They never deliver for the front line. They never back it up.