



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL:
LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (5.18 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise to talk on the 2017-18 budget estimates report No. 60 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. I thank the secretariat for all of the hard work that they put in and also the very balanced way in which the member for Stretton, the chair, managed affairs on the day in relation to the fairness of time et cetera. We did work well as a committee in the actual process itself. It has been interesting to listen to the comments from those opposite, in particular the member for Pine Rivers. She said she was going to spend a minute on a particular issue in relation to the member for Mansfield and then spent three minutes on it.

I will just add to what the member for Mansfield said about the consorting laws. I recall asking the Police Commissioner a question on the consorting laws to get some clarification. I asked, 'If we're trying to keep one old mate away from the bikie gangs and he's consorting with one individual who fits the bill but he's not consorting with another individual who necessarily fits the bill, but the other individual is coming in and he's being groomed as well, is that okay?' The answer was, 'Yes, that's okay. They can do that.' All of them can be given a warning and he can go away, and then another guy can come in and he can do the same thing and the same thing and the same thing. They have their master—this guy who fits the bill—but he is not breaking any laws. No-one is breaking any laws because they are just bringing these new guys in—the ones we do not want coming in—and they can just come in and consort with him and go through the training process. It is a very interesting set of circumstances and I wonder how the police manage to get around it.

My main contribution relates to my question to Ian Stewart, the commissioner, on how he is going finding land on the northern Gold Coast to build a new police station. I was waiting with bated breath because I had heard on the ground out in the marketplace that they were out and about looking around. He eventually deferred to Assistant Commissioner Brian Codd, and Brian did confirm that, yes, indeed they are looking around. Sadly, they are looking a bit too far south. Some members may recall me making the point in here before that we have had 10 new schools in 10 years on the northern Gold Coast and we have had a massive bump in population—with 20 per cent year on year and projections over the next 10 years of more than 10 per cent growth in population on the northern Gold Coast—yet they are still not looking for land to build a police station on the northern Gold Coast. Instead they are talking about building something central on the Gold Coast which would be a long distance away and that traffic jam on the M1 would cause all sorts of havoc for them when they are trying to get to any jobs on the northern Gold Coast.

If they are looking for somewhere to warehouse particular vehicles et cetera, I have to say that we already have it. We have already got Coomera and there is more than enough room at the Coomera Police Station to start building for that 50 extra police that I have been calling for. In fact I suggest that Brian Codd has also alluded to this because he is talking about an additional RAP squad coming. A RAP squad has 50 officers in it, so I think that is his way of saying, 'Michael, you're going to get your 50 police.' I just want to get them on the northern Gold Coast.

Once they have done that, they could actually go to the second part of what Brian Codd talked about in estimates and they could start working with Fire and Emergency Services, the ambos and so forth and build a three-way facility in Yawalpah Road where there is already land for emergency services in place and earmarked from our days. If they built that, the Fire and Emergency Services, the ambos and the police would all be warehoused right there. It looks like the minister is enthusiastic about this and that he is going to get up and make an announcement about this today because I can see him nodding his head. That is great. We are now going to see something in the Pimpama area in the Coomera electorate on the northern Gold Coast. This is the fastest growing region in Australia with 180,000 people there already, which is almost equivalent to Ipswich—

(Time expired)