




Speech By
Aaron Harper

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Project Red Socks; Police Resources

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (7.29 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I start by commending you for your work with Project Red Socks. I thank everyone for wearing them today and supporting Townsville Sunrise Rotary Club with regard to raising awareness about prostate cancer. Well done!

As a former paramedic in emergency services for 25 years, I am intent on delivering for all of our emergency services. I am really glad the police minister is in the chamber tonight because he knows that I am working hard to deliver a new police facility in the Upper Ross, in Thuringowa. It is not good enough that we have a 1991 demountable on Yvette Street and the Kelso Police Beat have 10 or 12 officers working successfully on a trial. We need to deliver new, modern facilities for our police in a growth area in Thuringowa that covers 25,000 people in the suburbs of Condon, Kelso and Rasmussen.

I do commend the minister for the extra 20 police we received last year for the Rapid Action Patrol hub, but we have to do more in terms of landing this new facility. I have been out doorknocking and I have a petition going which I will be tabling in the next sitting week. It is time to deliver decent facilities. We cannot have a dozen officers working out of a 1991 demountable. It just does not work.

I want to give a shout-out to the Upper Ross Community Voice, which is the community consultation group that the local police come and brief. There has been an increased demand for service in this growth area. There is no doubt that by giving them a new police facility, more officers can be responding to crime and patrolling in the local area. We want to see a reduction in crime, so those officers are welcomed.

I look forward to tabling that petition in the parliament and seeing that finally delivered. It has taken too long. We just need to get it done for the people of the Upper Ross. I know they are welcoming it. I have petitions right throughout the community which I will be collecting next week. We are going to land this for the police. Next, I will be working to get a new fire station as well. I will be the member known to have delivered for our fireys, our police and our ambulance—we got the funding for the Kirwan ambulance station last year—our rural fireys and our SES. Our volunteers in emergency services all do a great job in Thuringowa.