




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Watson, Sergeant M

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (7.12 pm): I rise to acknowledge an important member of the Moggill electorate and the broader western suburbs community, Sergeant Murray Watson. On 10 July 2018 Sergeant Murray Watson will celebrate his 60th birthday and also commence age retirement from the Queensland Police Service. He leaves the service with great respect and admiration not only from his policing peers but also the community he has served so honourably for over 40 years.

Sergeant Watson commenced as a police cadet on 20 January 1975 before graduating on 10 December 1976. He completed his initial training as a first response general duties officer at both the Indooroopilly and city police stations. In May of 1978 Murray commenced duties with Brisbane mobile patrols, which saw responses to a range of incidents across Brisbane. Sergeant Watson completed western service at the Emerald Police Station from 13 February 1979. He then served at Goondiwindi from 14 November 1980 before returning to Brisbane mobile patrols in July of 1981. Murray then commenced at the West End station on 28 January 1985 before attaining the rank of sergeant and the position of officer in charge at the Kenmore Police Station from 26 July 1991.

Sergeant Watson remained at the Kenmore station until its closure in 1997. He was heavily involved with the community during this time where his contribution to local Neighbourhood Watch groups including Kenmore, Kenmore West and Brookfield commenced. That involvement continued through to only recently. Sergeant Watson was also involved in establishing the Kenmore Community Consultative Committee and frequently attended meetings and has progressed policing projects. He personally trained and was qualified as a paramedic, which enhanced Sergeant Watson's abilities as a first responder within the greater Kenmore and Bellbowrie communities in times of critical incidents and emergencies.

The closure of the Kenmore station in September of 1997 saw Sergeant Watson transfer to Toowong and then to the Indooroopilly Police Station where he has served ever since. The level of his community engagement with this division and particularly residents in and around Kenmore has never waned. His children have attended primary school within the Kenmore area and actively participated in sporting and community groups.

Senior Sergeant Shane Hancock, office in charge of the Indooroopilly Police Station, has been Sergeant Watson's supervisor for the past three years. Senior Sergeant Hancock described Sergeant Watson as 'a truly dedicated, hardworking and ethical officer who works tirelessly to ensure victims of crime are supported, reported matters are thoroughly investigated and offenders are prosecuted where and when located'. Sergeant Watson is well respected by his fellow workmates, both sworn officers and civilians, and is trusted and relied upon for his empathetic support, wealth of knowledge and experience, and skill set in all areas of policing including QPS databases.

Sergeant Watson's contribution to both policing and the greater Kenmore community has been significant and selfless. He can retire from the service with the utmost sense of pride and sense of accomplishment. There is no doubt that Sergeant Watson's energy and enthusiasm to serve and contribute to others will continue well past his retirement from the service. I commend and thank Murray for his over 40 years of dedicated, professional and ethical commitment to the Queensland Police Service and the communities he has served. I wish him and his family all the best for the future.