




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Budget, Police Service

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.05 am): When our government came to office there was a lot of work to be done to give the Queensland Police Service the personnel, the high-tech equipment and the resources they need to keep Queenslanders safe. The Palaszczuk government is doing that work. We are doing that work to keep communities safe and reduce the number of people who are victims of crime.

This commitment to advancing Queensland's priorities is writ large in this year's state budget. We have increased the number of police officers, taking the total number of officers to nearly 12,000. There are more coming. What is more, we are supporting the deployment of those extra officers where they are needed most.

We have already announced funding for an extra 24 domestic violence specialists to be spread across the state, providing direction, guidance and training on issues associated with domestic and family violence. This initiative was a recommendation of the *Not now, not ever* report and we are taking action. Our state budget support for this investment in these new specialist officers demonstrates our government's total commitment to tackling the scourge of domestic and family violence.

Modern policing is about more than just numbers. It is also about the clever use of technology. The state budget will continue to see the Palaszczuk government providing funding to equip the Queensland Police Service with a fleet of QLITE mobile tablet devices. As I speak, new model tasers are continuing to be rolled out right across the state. The provision of body worn cameras for our officers also continues to be supported by our government. Additionally, this government has allocated nearly \$50 million for a world-class use of force weapons and counter-terrorism facility at Wacol.

When I travel the state and speak to police officers they are at one in saying that the array of high-tech equipment they have is making a very real difference to the work they do. Imagine a police officer on the side of the road with a QLITE mobile tablet device. Instantaneously that officer can check a person's driving history and whether they have a criminal past or outstanding warrants. What it means is that our police work faster, are more mobile and are more rapid response ready.

All of this shows why the Queensland Police Service is recognised internationally as the envy of other policing jurisdictions. It is also one of the reasons our government continues to advance Queensland's priorities to keep communities safe for the benefit of all communities right across the state.