




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2018

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, Report

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.20 pm): I start by acknowledging and thanking the members of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for their report on the budget estimates for my portfolio areas of Police and Corrective Services. I note that the committee acknowledged the progress and benefits of the Palaszczuk government's delivery of body worn cameras to police. In the 2018-19 budget, we are definitely getting more bang for our buck. We are getting more police, more police stations, more technology for our police, more specialist officers, 535 extra police personnel over the next four years, almost \$16 million to boost counter-tourism capabilities, over \$2 million to build a new policing hub at Arundel on the Gold Coast, over \$5 million for new water police boats and we are also rolling out an extra 1,400 QLITE devices. We have funded and supported 85 new counter-terrorism specialists to be embedded across the state. We have supported the employment of 24 new domestic and family violence police coordinators. This budget means that our police will be better qualified, better trained and better equipped than ever before. Importantly, it means that our police will have the best resources to do what they do best: keep Queenslanders safe.

The committee acknowledged the process for identifying the Mongrel Mob as a criminal organisation. Those opposite do not understand and they do not accept that under the Palaszczuk government Queensland has the strongest, toughest and most comprehensive serious and organised crime legislation in the nation. Those laws are at the very core of our government's commitment to keeping Queenslanders safe; it is as simple as that. In recent months—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr RYAN: They are always criticising the police. They are always attacking them. It is disgraceful conduct. They should be thanking our police and not attacking them. In recent months, multiple police operations have disrupted—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr RYAN: They are interjecting on me when I am trying to celebrate and thank the police.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stevens): Member for Morayfield, you have the call. Any provocative comments will bring a response. Members on my left, please let the member have his say.

Mr RYAN: Let us celebrate some of the activities of the police. In recent months, multiple police operations have disrupted attempts by outlaw motorcycle gangs to gain a foothold in Queensland. Police are striking early, they are striking hard and they are striking often. An outlaw motorcycle gang attempted to disguise the fact that it was trying to set up a clubhouse in the northern suburbs of Brisbane. How did that go for them? Police raided the joint. They shut it down, confiscated equipment

and gave gang members an unambiguous warning. They were told, 'It does not matter what you do or where you go, the police will be knocking on your door.' Under our legislation, there is nowhere to hide for those people engaged in serious organised crime in our state.

We often see reports from right across the nation about other governments wanting to adopt our strong tough laws. Recently, the Tasmanian government acknowledged our tough laws in relation to the banning of colours. It is clear to see that our laws support our police to do their job. Our dedicated police, supported by the resourcing in this budget, are doing what they are supposed to do and are supported to do, which of course is to keep our communities safe.

It is also important to acknowledge the work being done by Queensland Corrective Services. The committee acknowledged the impacts of a growing prisoner population and the steps that the Palaszczuk government has taken to ease capacity pressures. The Palaszczuk government acknowledges the importance of Queensland Corrective Services, which is why today it stands as a vital front-line top-tier public safety agency and a department in its own right. This decision recognises the significant risk managed by Queensland Corrective Services on behalf of our community by incarcerating and managing the most dangerous, challenging and complex members of our society to keep our communities safe every day.

In the last financial year, a crucial milestone was achieved with the appointment of a new commissioner of Queensland Corrective Services, Dr Peter Martin. Under Dr Martin's leadership, Queensland Corrective Services is preparing a 10-year plan to guide its future and the future of corrective services in Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is strongly committed to the reform of our parole system and we continue to support the Sofronoff recommendations with the further rollout of \$265 million. As members would be aware, Queensland Corrective Services is doing some outstanding work in challenging environments. I commend them and all officers of the Queensland Corrective Services and the Queensland Police Service for the great work that they do.