




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Police Service, Controlled Operations

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.57 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to keeping Queenslanders safe. One significant but largely unnoticed area of the Queensland Police Service's work is what are called controlled operations. In layman's terms, controlled operations are undercover or covert operations undertaken by carefully selected members of the Queensland Police Service. In accordance with section 269(2) of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act, I table the 18th annual report of the Controlled Operations Committee. I take this opportunity to thank the committee for its efforts during the past financial year.

Tabled paper: Controlled Operations Committee—Annual Report 2017-18 [\[1182\]](#).

The report details the remarkable success of the undercover operations. However, it does not reveal the challenging nature of the work that this select band of police officers undertakes. Those officers willingly inject themselves into potentially hazardous situations for the benefit of the wider community. As the Minister for Police and on behalf of all Queenslanders, I wish to thank those officers for their unrelenting commitment to the safety of our community.

The report reveals that over the last financial year 13 approved controlled operations were finalised. As a result, over 300 people were arrested and a total of 1,200 charges laid. These operations also resulted in the seizure of many items, including vehicles, vessels, mobile phones, computers and cash, with a total value of almost \$750,000.

In particular, I note that the controlled operations work has a focus on the illicit drug trade. As we all know, the illicit drug trade is a blight on our community. The suppliers and dealers peddle misery and death. Through covert police operations we are disrupting those illegal activities. According to the report I have just tabled, covert officers have seized nearly \$2 million worth of illicit drugs in the past year.

To the officers who conduct these controlled operations I say: your secret identities mean you truly are some of our community's unsung heroes. The work you do is making Queensland a safer place. I salute you and thank you for your work.