




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gold Coast, GPS Tracking Devices

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.52 am): A very angry Police Commissioner has told me that recent claims about GPS trackers on the Gold Coast are wrong, ridiculous and reckless.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr RYAN: I will take those interjections because they are interjecting on advice from the Police Commissioner. It shows their respect for our Police Service!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, I have spoken to two previous ministers this morning about bringing those things on. I would suggest that you get on with the ministerial statement. I am keeping the House in order.

Ms TRAD: I rise to a point of order. The minister was not being inflammatory or provocative in his ministerial statement.

Mr SPEAKER: I was not suggesting he was, Deputy Premier.

Ms TRAD: The heckling from those opposite was unparliamentary and he was responding to that.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, thank you. I have just provided some guidance to the minister. As I have said on previous occasions, these are ministerial statements. However, I will not tolerate unruly and disorderly behaviour in the House and I am dealing with that.

Mr RYAN: Police Commissioner Ian Stewart says the GPS tracking system in place on the Gold Coast is world class and represents best practice, and that is why it is used by many public safety agencies internationally. The commissioner has also confirmed yet again that the trackers are monitored in real time every second of every day. That is not an opinion. It is not a claim. It is a fact. If someone with a tracker attached to them ventures into a no-go zone or breaches a curfew or tampers with their tracker, an alert is immediately sent to police. The commissioner says if an alert of this type is raised police act swiftly, within minutes. The commissioner has also confirmed that if a Gold Coast based magistrate orders a tracker for a person then that tracker can be delivered to the court within hours if the court requires it.

Let us be clear, because the Bail Act is clear. It is only after a court has granted bail that consideration of a tracker takes place. In other words, these people will be on bail regardless. What our government has done is introduce an extra layer of monitoring of people if the court determines they need it. The laws that support these procedures began in March this year. The key point about all of this is that the extra layer of monitoring of offenders on bail never existed before then. This government's priority is making Queensland a safer place. That is why we gave the courts this additional monitoring option when releasing offenders back into the community.