




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Darling Downs, Operation Barracuda

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.00 am): Our police are making a big difference in the regions. They are taking crims and drugs off the streets. Earlier this month police officers from across the Darling Downs region joined forces to shut down a major drug network in south-west Queensland. Operation Barracuda, which was coordinated by the Warwick Criminal Investigation Branch, culminated with a raid at a property in Warwick. The team seized a substantial quantity of dangerous drugs and money.

Over 40 people were arrested and charged with 131 offences including trafficking in dangerous drugs, possession, producing and supplying dangerous drugs. It is a great example of how collaborative police efforts can work to stop crime in the community. Dismantling criminal networks and getting drugs off the streets is vital for so many reasons.

The simple reality is that crime in our regional communities can have a negative impact on local economies. The drug trade and the drug addiction that it gives rise to often results in criminal acts that have far-reaching effects. Private homes become targets for those desperate to fund their habit. The owners of small businesses and their workers also become targets.

Our police men and women are working hard to rid communities of all types of drugs including the drug ice. In a little over a year, police have executed almost 1,000 search warrants in response to ice and organised crime. They have seized almost 50 kilograms of ice, \$4.5 million in cash and more than \$100 million in illicit drugs.

Our government backs our police. Their work complements the Premier's Action on Ice plan, which was launched earlier this year. As part of this plan, police prioritised crime investigations into high-threat criminal networks to disrupt and dismantle networks trafficking ice in Queensland. These results show that police remain resolute when it comes to ridding communities of this insidious and dangerous drug. Well done to our police. We thank them for their good work.