



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2018

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Police Resources**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.04 am): Under the Palaszczuk government there are more police in Queensland than ever before and there are even more to come. Our election commitment will deliver an extra 535 police personnel statewide by 2022, which is on top of the over 300 extra police delivered by our government since February 2015.

In our most recent budget, we invested over \$2.4 billion in our police, which is a 13.4 per cent increase since we came to government. When talking about police numbers, it is important to compare apples with apples. The critical number is the approved strength, that is, the number of police set by the commissioner for each policing region. The other number is the actual strength, which is an actual headcount of police officers in a particular region on a particular day. The actual strength number can fluctuate widely from day to day because of the temporary presence of a task force, retirements or an influx of new recruits. It is not, the commissioner advises, a useful—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, resume your seat. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders. Members, today my tolerance level is low for interjections that I believe are unnecessary. I will name members.

**Mr RYAN:** It is not, the commissioner advises, a useful or reliable number for analysis or comparison. The number that matters, the approved strength, has gone up in all regions across the state. For instance, take the Gold Coast: in 2014, the Gold Coast's approved strength, including division, district and central functions, was 966 police officers. In 2018, for the Gold Coast the approved strength is 1,015. By way of interest, as at 30 September 2018 on the Gold Coast the actual strength is 1,054, which is an increase from 2016.

The Gold Coast is a great example of how a modern policing service operates. The Commonwealth Games provided an important infrastructure legacy that police now use. The purpose-built communications hub for the games was deliberately designed for police post games. It is called the District Tasking and Coordination Centre. It fits neatly with the modern borderless policing model where police are sent in numbers to wherever they are needed, whenever they are needed.

While the Gold Coast district duty officers remain operational out on the street, 24 hours a day, a second layer of Gold Coast district duty officers has been added to the District Tasking and Coordination Centre. Having a district duty officer in the room enables more effective deployment of operational resources to specific calls for service. That is modern policing: agile, flexible, quick to respond—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr RYAN:** Just for the record, these are operational decisions by police and those opposite laugh.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, resume your seat. Members to my left, if anyone can explain the need for the outburst, I would like them to rise to a point of order. Otherwise, please listen to the ministerial statement.

**Mr RYAN:** As I was saying, those opposite laugh when I am discussing matters that are decided by police, that is, operational policing matters. Our police deserve to be respected and commended, not condemned, for their actions. As I was saying, that is modern policing: agile, flexible, quick to respond, surging in numbers to areas of need. On behalf of all Queenslanders, I thank our police for their hard work.