




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 16 October 2019

**POLICE SERVICE ADMINISTRATION (DISCIPLINE REFORM) AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (6.43 pm): I rise to make a contribution in support of the Police Service Administration (Discipline Reform) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I do so because the intent of the bill is sound. Equally, the detail of the bill is sound and strikes a balance between enhancing efficiencies with police discipline and having appropriate sanctions for actions.

I wish to place on record—and I will not use either names or the incident involved—that a good friend of mine, who is a police officer and remains a police officer, effectively had his career put in purgatory for a long period because of an investigation in which ultimately he was well and truly cleared. Because of a high-profile process that was cumbersome and clumsy, this person's career was stymied for a long period. This was a good person who missed promotions as a result, whose family suffered as a result—a great and stressful period in his life. What the minister seeks to achieve through this will take a positive step forward in that regard.

I place on record my admiration, support and respect for people who every day put on the blue uniform. Both the minister and the shadow minister here today have very important roles in the parliament, because one of the first roles of any good government is to keep its community safe. A good and efficient Police Service which strikes the balance between that efficiency and discipline and vigour is essential for a good and a well-managed state. The six previous serving police officers in this House from both sides of politics bring to their jobs a great insight of the coalface, what it is like to serve the community. There is a vast breadth of experience, from people like the member for Nicklin, who has served in an array of professions including in the PCYC, to the member for Bundaberg, who did his service and for a time was in local government, but right across the board they make great contributions to this House.

I refer briefly to one of the police stations in my electorate. It has had its challenges from an HR perspective. This bill addresses the need for matters to be reviewed swiftly and fairly. I want to place on record my best wishes to the new Senior Sergeant of Runaway Bay Police Station, Scott Burness, and also take the opportunity to thank the newish head of the Water Police, Senior Sergeant Jay Notaro. The other evening, I had the great honour of attending a dinner with these two gentlemen as well as school principals of my electorate as a way of connecting what I see as two very valuable assets in my electorate, that is, those who set the standard for education and those who set the standard for law and order. The level of professionalism that I have seen in that police station is without peer, but there are challenges.

When I read about resources in the bill, I place on record that this push towards technology somehow being the panacea for not needing as many police officers must be resisted. It must be resisted, because it will lead to more HR issues. It will lead to more disciplinary matters. It will lead to more challenges. There is no substitute for blue uniforms on the ground. The joy of this bill is that it seeks to ensure a Police Service that can be as efficient and disciplined as possible but which never

comes at the expense—and technology can never be used as the reason—why we do not need more boots on the ground. It is great to have in the House the member for Coomera, who has led a frenetic campaign for an increase in officer numbers in the northern part of the Gold Coast.

Mr RYAN: I rise on a point of order on relevance. Mr Deputy Speaker, you and other deputy speakers have made rulings in respect of this bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Broadwater, I have made a ruling in the House as have other Deputy Speakers about coming back to the long title of the bill. I gave you a bit of latitude when you were talking before, but I think you have strayed now. I ask you to come back.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I will conclude my remarks by going back to what really is the crowning achievement of this bill, that is, that it puts in place a framework that can ensure an end to the paralysis that costs good people opportunities. If somebody does wrong and they are a law enforcement officer, there should be no wriggle room at all. They are charged with setting the standard for our community. But where somebody has not done wrong and where an investigation drips on for months and years, that impacts on people and families. I hope that the bill we support today helps undo such unjust situations.