



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 April 2019

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Sargood, Mr S; Police Commissioner, Appointment; Police Resources**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): The Queensland bush lost one of its true champions when Scott Sargood died in a gyrocopter crash near Charleville on 10 April. Scott was taken from us much, much too soon. He was just 54 years old and has left behind his wife Adma and two children, Mitch and Bonnie. Scott was a humble man but he loved the bush with all of his heart. When Labor unveiled its antifarmer laws, Scott decided to take a stand. It was Scott who handed me the Green Shirts petition containing some 17,000 signatures outside parliament just behind where we sit. That was where he spoke with passion about Queensland, about the land and about the Queensland people. Scotty and many others may have lost that fight, but he certainly won a place in the hearts of so many across Queensland.

Scott's life was celebrated in Toowoomba yesterday and his top quotes were included in the order of service. I would love to be able to recite one of them, but I do not think it is parliamentary. One that I think is fabulous is this: a negative thinker sees a difficulty in every opportunity, but a positive thinker sees an opportunity in every difficulty. That would sum up Scott Sargood and what his fight was like just outside these parliamentary doors. People like Scott do not come around very often, so he will be greatly missed. On behalf of the entire state opposition team and, in fact, the entire Queensland parliament I would like to pass on our thoughts and our prayers to Adma, Mitch and Bonnie who have been sadly left behind.

I welcome the appointment of Katarina Carroll as our new Police Commissioner. I, like many on our side of the chamber, have worked closely with her before. During the G20 I got to spend quite a bit of time with Katarina Carroll. It was the LNP who previously entrusted Katarina with tackling serious, systemic problems in the Fire Service when we appointed her Commissioner of Fire and Emergency Services. I congratulate Katarina Carroll on the work she has done in her role of Commissioner of Fire and Emergency Services and I wish her all the best as the new Police Commissioner of Queensland.

When it comes to crime, I believe the new commissioner is going to have her hands full. We know that with bosses like Annastacia Palaszczuk, the member for Inala, and the police minister, the member for Morayfield, we have seen crime escalate and go out of control in this state. It was the last LNP government that cut crime across the state and we drove the criminal gangs out of Queensland. We took strong action to ensure our communities were kept safe. What a stark contrast we see with the Palaszczuk Labor government. Their record on crime and keeping our communities safe is quite simply shameful. It is the Palaszczuk Labor government under the member for Inala as Premier and the member for Morayfield as the police minister who have cut the Police budget by \$44 million. They have also—

**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Crime up, police down. Thank you, member for Toowoomba North. They have also weakened our tough laws and refused to save Crime Stoppers. No wonder crime is going through the roof. It is no surprise that under the Labor state government robbery in this state has surged by a staggering 61 per cent; armed robbery is up by 46 per cent; serious assault is up by 35 per cent and car theft, something that one of the Labor members of parliament knows all about—

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** He does. I will take that interjection. He knows from personal experience due to having his own vehicle stolen with his face on it.

**An opposition member:** Why would they want to steal it?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Why would they?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members.

**A government member:** He got it back.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection from someone on the Labor side who said that he got it back. However, he only got it back due to the hardworking nature of our police men and women across this great state. It is the police men and women who are working with less. They have softer laws and fewer resources to work with, yet crime is spiralling out of control.

Talking about that car that was stolen from the Labor member, the member for Stretton, car theft in Queensland is up by a staggering 45 per cent. With a record like that, with those figures, most governments would ensure they were doing everything they possibly could to crack down on crime, to do something about the criminals in this state, but instead what does the Palaszczuk Labor government do? They cut \$44 million out of the Police budget. They expect our police officers to do more with less. I attended a crime forum in the last couple of weeks in the South Burnett, where the good people of Murgon, Cherbourg and Goomeri are screaming out for assistance, and what do they get from the incompetent Labor government? They were told that they will have four more police officers. We have never heard a bigger load of baloney in our lives. There are people whose cars are getting flogged and whose houses are getting broken into. There was also a police prosecutor who woke up to a brick being struck to his head by a juvenile thug who had committed crime after crime after crime.

**Mr Perrett:** That is how bold they are.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** That is how bold the juveniles are in this state. What was the Labor minister's response? What is the Labor Premier's response? We have not had a response. It is exactly that. What is their response? 'Let's reduce the Police budget. Let's tell the good people of the Gold Coast, of Townsville, of the South Burnett, where crime is going out of control, that they don't deserve an eye in the sky—a police chopper—in Townsville.' What was that great quote from the member for Thuringowa? 'We need more coppers, not choppers.' That was the comment from that member—

**Mr HARPER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence and ask that the comment be withdrawn. It was not me; she is misleading the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Member for Nanango, the member for Thuringowa has taken offence. Will you withdraw your comment, please.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw, but I know that it was a member for Townsville who made the statement 'more coppers, not choppers' in relation to the LNP's announcement that the people of Townsville deserve to have a—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. As we have learned from what occurred in Townsville today, where is the government's response in relation to the juveniles who have escaped from bail houses? They have left the door open, and we know that from the Premier's response this morning, 'Nothing to see here. It's okay.' There are still 12 in there. Do not worry about the safety of the good people of Townsville. What is this government's response to juvenile crime? In this state we have seen our watch houses full to overflowing with these juveniles. We have heard that they have been in there for weeks upon weeks without education. How did we hear that? Through the questioning of the state opposition LNP team, because we are the only ones in this House who will stand up for community safety and the people of Queensland. It is only the LNP who are standing up for the Police Service in this great state because we know how hard those men and women have to work with the resources that this government has stripped out of the Police budget. I do wish the new Police Commissioner all the best with the reduction of police services across this great state. It is only the LNP that look after community safety in Queensland.