




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Police Powers Review

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.57 am): More than 3,700 police officers were deployed to ensure that the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games were the safest and most successful games ever. I take this opportunity to commend the Premier and the Commonwealth Games minister for their stewardship of the biggest sporting event in Queensland's history. I also commend the Queensland Police Service for the incredibly important role they played keeping everyone, including our interstate and overseas visitors, safe.

A year to the day since the games began, we can see clearly the enduring legacy Queensland's biggest ever event has given to the Gold Coast. We see the Gold Coast securing new, major events which is delivering a significant boost to the region's economy. The games supported more than 30,000 new jobs and facilitated the construction or upgrade of 18 world-class facilities through the government's \$320 million infrastructure program.

The Palaszczuk government also invested in new technology and training for our police and brought in legislation to ensure the safety of athletes, officials, local residents and visitors to the Gold Coast. The games presented a unique security environment. The objective of the new police powers, which were specifically designed for the games, was to ensure safety and security. These laws enabled police to quickly and efficiently search, without warrant or reasonable suspicion, people, vehicles and places in prescribed protective security zones at the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville.

I am pleased to inform the House that police detected no serious security threats during the games. After the games an independent review was conducted into the effectiveness of these police powers. The review and the subsequent report, *Operational Sentinel 2018*, was undertaken by the University of Queensland law school. While the review team found that the police powers were extraordinary, they also found that the powers were fit for purpose and appropriate for an event of this magnitude. The report commends police for their use of accountability measures such as body worn cameras. Should similar powers be considered for any major events of this nature in the future, this government will continue to ensure any police powers are used in a manner consistent with established protocols.

I take this opportunity to table the report prepared by the University of Queensland law school. I also table the Queensland Police Service response to the report.

Tabled paper: University of Queensland, TC Beirne School of Law report, dated 31 October 2018, titled 'Report of the Independent Review of the Operation and Effectiveness of Chapter 19A of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 (Qld)' [534](#).

Tabled paper: University of Queensland, TC Beirne School of Law report, dated 31 October 2018, titled 'Report of the Independent Review of the Operation and Effectiveness of Chapter 19A of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 (Qld)'—Queensland Police Service response to the report [535](#).