




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 15 May 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Police Service, Resources

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.58 am): Queensland has a world-class Police Service and this year the capital and operational budget for our police is more than \$2.4 billion, an increase of over 13 per cent since our government was elected—and in this budget police are getting more bang for their buck. We are getting more police, more police stations, more technology for our police, more specialist personnel, more police vessels and vehicles and, under our government, our police are better qualified, better trained and better equipped than ever before.

Examples abound. The world looks to our Task Force Argos as the benchmark when it comes hunting those who prey on children. Our homicide squad and cold case unit lead the nation when it comes to solving cases. We have invested over \$46 million in building a new Counter Terrorism and Community Safety Centre in Wacol, which will be a world-class use of force, weapons and counter-terrorism training facility, with construction about to begin, creating 130 jobs. Importantly, this new facility will support the work of 85 counter-terrorism specialists, which our government has funded and who will be embedded throughout the state.

We are creating jobs for Queenslanders. As a result there are more police in Queensland than ever before and there are more coming. Today, I am pleased to announce to the House that a new batch of recruits will graduate at the Oxley police academy tomorrow—74 brand-new police officers. They will join those who graduated from the Oxley academy only a few months ago. At that graduation ceremony, 76 new police officers were sworn into service. These new police officers will be deployed across our state—to Brisbane, the Gold Coast, the Far North and North and out west.

For the benefit of those opposite, I point out that we have two police academies in Queensland. One is at Oxley and the other one is at Townsville. Earlier this year, the Townsville police academy received a new intake of recruits, who will spend six months learning the skills and capabilities of a modern police officer. Those recruits will graduate this year as well. The recruitment drive for our Queensland Police Service continues. By 2020-21, the Palaszczuk government will have invested in an extra 535 police personnel since 2017. Our police do a great job keeping Queensland safe and we commend them for their service.