



Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, Report

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.57 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate. I take this opportunity to acknowledge members of the committee for their report on the budget estimates for my portfolios of police and corrective services.

I note that the committee recognised the significant investment by this government in community safety. The numbers are there in black and white—a record \$2.6 billion police operating and capital budget, which is an increase of almost 20 per cent since we came to government. What does this mean for Queensland? It means more resources for our police, more police in Queensland than ever before and the building of a new counterterrorism and community safety training centre. It also means jobs. We see in the corrective services space 700-plus jobs for new corrections officers over the next year. There will be a massive expansion of the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre in the Lockyer electorate—although the member did not mention it in his contribution. There will be more than 1,000 beds and more than 400 jobs during construction, with more than 500 jobs when it is fully operational.

This government is about building infrastructure and creating jobs for Queenslanders. Our government is about creating jobs at a time when jobs and job security are more important than ever before, but this is in direct contrast to the claims made by the LNP in its statement of reservation. These claims should not be left unchallenged. Therefore, it is timely to remind members of this House of the poor track record of the former LNP government when it comes to law and order. It slashed police numbers—more than 330 police positions gone when it was in government. While this Labor government is rolling out body worn video cameras to every uniformed first responder police officer in Queensland, under the LNP our police had to buy their own. This is the same LNP government that reneged on a promise to provide \$20 million for extra police and police training to patrol safe night out precincts. It made that promise to the president of the Queensland Police Union, and we can all remember the TV ad that the president of the Police Union had to take out where he said that the former premier lied to his face. The LNP promised that \$20 million in funding for the antiviolence campaign, but it did not deliver.

Mr McARDLE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister used the word 'lie' which is unparliamentary in this chamber and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Thank you, member for Caloundra. Member, I ask that you withdraw that word please.

Mr RYAN: I withdraw that word. The former premier—and I cannot believe he wanted me to say it again—was dishonest in his dealings with the president of the Queensland Police Union.

Mr McArdle interjected.

Mr RYAN: As the president of the Queensland Police Union said—you opened this opportunity, mate; you should have kept quiet—if you can be dishonest to a police officer, you can be dishonest to anyone. That is its record and the LNP today—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister, I remind you to direct your comments through the chair.

Mr RYAN: The LNP today is cut from the same cloth. Let us talk about bikies. Everyone knows that Queensland has the strongest, toughest, most comprehensive anti bikie gang laws in the country under our government. Police are arresting the bikies and last year police arrested more bikies in Queensland than in any year since Taskforce Maxima was formed. Those opposite criticise it, but do members know who says our laws are the best? The police. Our police say that our laws are the best, so the opposition refuses to accept the advice of the Queensland Police Service. Shame on it.

Our government will also always put victims first. We delivered the nation's toughest laws when it comes to dealing with child sex offenders and we backed those laws up with \$27 million for extra police surveillance, monitoring and equipment. The LNP's laws on the other hand were unworkable. They did not even stand up to the scrutiny of the courts. We will always act to protect the innocent and condemn the guilty.

Let us also look at the LNP's record with its budgets when it was in power. There were miniscule increases in the budget compared to our record budget, with an almost 20 per cent increase since we have come to power, and it gets worse. When it was in government, it did not properly fund operational equipment for our police like police cars and accoutrements. It is a Labor government that backs our police. It is a Labor government that supports our police. Those opposite are clueless when it comes to police. They never backed them. Cut, sack and sell is all they know, but you will not read that in their statement of reservation.