




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 3 September 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Police Resources

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.10 am): More police are coming to Townsville. Yesterday the Police Commissioner and I announced that an extra 53 police officers will be permanently based in Townsville by the end of next year. Twenty-eight of those officers will be here in Townsville by mid next year, with the remaining 25 officers here six months later. This means our election commitment will be delivered 18 months earlier than committed.

I am sure local MPs will be pleased to hear that Assistant Commissioner Paul Taylor has said that the initial allocation of 28 new officers will be as follows: five to Mundingburra station; six to Townsville station; six to Kirwan station; four to the Tactical Crime Squad; four to the Child Protection Investigation Unit; and three to the Domestic and Family Violence Unit. This is our government delivering on its commitment to the people of Townsville and delivering that commitment early. To date we have already boosted Townsville police by 50 officers since we were elected and these extra numbers mean that we will have increased the total number of police in the Townsville policing district by more than 100.

There is more good news: the commissioner and I also announced that the rollout of the latest generation body worn cameras begins in Townsville this week. It is a win-win: more cameras and better technology to deliver significant benefits to police and the community. This new initiative means that all uniformed first responder officers will now have access to two important technologies: the next generation body worn cameras and QLITE tablet devices. The Police Service's early adoption of technology plays a vital role in the way police operate on a daily basis. Not only are there more police in Queensland than ever before, but the Queensland Police Service is now more mobile and more agile than ever before and these new technologies support that policing philosophy. Again, this is an example of our government backing our police—backing our police by investing in the people and the technology that has ensured the Queensland Police Service a reputation as a world-class operation.

I know how important the Queensland Police Service is to the people of Townsville. Earlier this year the city was struck by flooding the likes of which had never been witnessed before. We saw the police here out on the front line, in the flood waters, doing all they could to keep people safe. To the police of Townsville, we salute you and we say thank you for the magnificent work you do protecting and serving your community.