




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 4 September 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Police Service, Cold Case Investigation Team

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (5.51 pm): Queensland's Cold Case Investigation Team leads the nation. Recently they solved a number of murder mysteries, some dating back decades. Today I joined police in announcing that the Cold Case Investigation Team is renewing investigations into an unsolved case here in Townsville.

In 1975, an 18-year-old woman, Catherine Graham, moved to Townsville and was selling educational books door to door. On the night of 29 July 1975, Catherine was seen canvassing homes in the Hermit Park area. On that night, Catherine was due to be picked up by friends at 11 o'clock. However, she never made it to the pick-up point.

Catherine's body was discovered on 1 August in a paddock in Oak Valley, 18 kilometres from Townsville along the Flinders Highway. Police say that, on the night of her murder, Catherine phoned her mother from a phone box in the Rising Sun area in Townsville. Police say that Catherine told her mother that she did not like the look of a man standing nearby. Catherine's homicide remains unsolved. Her case is now subject to review by the Cold Case Investigation Team.

Police are convinced that there are people with information about the murder. There is a \$250,000 reward available for information that may lead to a conviction. There is also an indemnity for anyone who did not commit the murder and who comes forward to speak with police. Justice never sleeps and Queensland's elite Cold Case Investigation Team will not rest until justice is done, for Catherine Graham and for her family.