




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, LNP Plan

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (3.48 pm): We have just seen an example of how they like to talk the big game but their words are hollow. They are crowing about their plan for Townsville. This week we have seen how their plan is already in tatters and has been discredited.

Mrs Frecklington: By who?

Mr RYAN: I take the interjection from the member for Nanango. We on this side of the House listen to the experts; we listen to the police. The police are the experts when it comes to policing matters. This happens every time the police provide advice. Members opposite ignore the advice; they yell over the advice. The Leader of the Opposition just asked about who provided that advice. The Queensland Police Union say they do not need a dedicated police helicopter here in Townsville. The assistant commissioner for the region and the chief superintendent say that they do not need a dedicated police helicopter.

Why do they say that? It is because there are already helicopter resources here in Townsville. In fact, there are two of them available 24/7 and used by the police when they need them. They support the police and our other emergency services.

Those opposite are saying that when it comes to policing matters they will ignore the advice of the experts—the police, the assistant commissioner, the chief superintendent, the Queensland Police Union. Heaven help us if those opposite are ever returned to the treasury benches because, when it comes to policing matters, they will not listen to the experts; they will just do what they think. That will have disastrous consequences not only for policing but also for community safety.

Let us look at what those opposite did to Townsville when they were last in government. Let us look at what happened when they did not listen to the experts. I am pleased that we are talking about helicopters, because there is one member on the other side of the House who used to like helicopters—that is, the member for Kawana. He used taxpayers' money to fly helicopters out to those discredited boot camps, which never worked, which people escaped from and which the Auditor-General said were a waste of money. That is what happens when you do not listen to the experts: you waste taxpayers' money and do things that do not work.

What else happened when they did not listen to the experts? They cut youth justice conferencing and diversion programs.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, members! Pause the clock. Member for Nicklin, you are warned.

Mr RYAN: When you do not listen to experts—like those opposite—you come up with plans that do not work. You come up with plans that are quickly in tatters and discredited. Their plan for Townsville is already in tatters and discredited. Let us look at what those opposite inflicted on Townsville when they were in government. Just this week I was reflecting on reporting from 2012 that said that they cut resourcing to police in Townsville.

Mrs Frecklington: 2012?

Mr RYAN: We have to look at the record of those opposite. This is what happens when those on the other side win only one election in the past 30 years: there are not too many examples to point to. When those opposite are in government they inflict cuts on our essential services. They cut \$24 million from police resources. What did they tell senior police in Townsville when they were in government? They said, 'Tighten your belts. We cannot afford cars, computers and equipment for our police. Just get police out there without all that essential equipment.' We support our police and we fund them.

Let us look at the plan the LNP put out at the last election: 'Our real plan'. I have said that maybe it should have been called the 'Really, Really Real Plan'. Maybe that is what this plan is. At the last election, in their plan for North Queensland they committed zero police for Townsville—they made no reference to police in Townsville—but they committed 20 police for Cairns. At the last election we said that we would deliver 53 police to Townsville. We are going to deliver them and we are going to deliver them early.

Mr Last interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members. Pause the clock. Member for Burdekin, you are warned.

Mr RYAN: It is this side of the House that has a plan for Townsville that is informed by the experts. It is a plan that is properly resourced and that we will deliver. In fact, our plan will deliver early. It will work, because we resource it properly. We listen to the experts, unlike those opposite.