




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 19 September 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Bushfires, Police Service

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.00 am): Police continue to hunt down those who recklessly and dangerously put the community at risk. Just yesterday, police in the Whitsundays confronted a man spotted by a helicopter pilot allegedly lighting fires. When approached, the man used his vehicle to ram the police car head-on, causing extensive damage. Police officers fired shots and the man was taken into custody. The matter is now the subject of a number of investigations, but it is just another extreme example of the sorts of situations that police are dealing with during this heightened fire danger period. To date, 30 people have been dealt with for offences relating to deliberately setting fires. They will face the consequences of their actions.

That is the case no matter the nature of the crime or where it is committed. I was particularly disturbed to hear of the case of a man violently assaulted on the Gold Coast recently. To be the victim of a violent assault is a traumatic experience and I share with all Queenslanders in sending our thoughts to the man, his family and his friends. I was going to say that I have no doubt that those responsible will be tracked down and feel the full force of the law, but only minutes ago I was informed that that had already happened. One adult and a juvenile have been arrested and charged by police. That good work is another illustration of the world-class police operation that we are fortunate to have on the Gold Coast and throughout Queensland.

More than 1,000 police officers are based on the Gold Coast and more are coming. The Police Commissioner has announced that another 20 police will be deployed to the coast by June next year and there will be more allocated following that. Also, a major new police facility is under construction at Arundel and another new facility has been announced for Pimpama. Police are also doing good work preventing crime on the Gold Coast. The award-winning police-led Project Booyah program that steers young people away from criminal offending is having great success. Another group of young people was recently inducted into the program on the Gold Coast.

That is what modern policing is about. With troubled young people, there is a small window of opportunity to help them turn their lives around and turn them away from crime and it is always better to prevent crime. Make no mistake: people who commit crime will be dealt with and will feel the full consequences of their actions.