




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Police, Resources

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.54 am): A group of individuals behaved appallingly in Townsville yesterday. Those people acted with callous disregard for the safety of other people. Those people showed utter disrespect for the rights and property of other members of their community. The causes of that outrageous behaviour are complex, but the consequences are simple: those people will be arrested. A short time ago I was informed by Townsville police that they know exactly who they are looking for. The police have strategies in place and those people will have nowhere to run.

There are over 600 police already permanently based in Townsville and 53 extra police will be deployed there by the end of next year. Police in Townsville, as well as right across the state, are working hard every day to keep our communities safe. Our government is making significant resourcing investments in police right across the state.

There are over 1,000 police permanently based on the Gold Coast and another 20 officers will be deployed there by the end of this financial year. Our anti organised crime legislation is the strongest in the nation. It is the strongest, toughest and most comprehensive legislation in the nation. Last year our police made the highest number of arrests of members of organised crime groups since Taskforce Maxima was formed. Data shows that patched OMCG membership in Queensland continues to decline.

Following the deaths of two people on the Gold Coast recently, police have established a dedicated operation, Operation Romeo Masking, with an investigative centre being established at the Gold Coast CIB at Burleigh Heads. Just this morning I was advised by police that a team of more than 20 detectives is working around the clock on that investigation and they are being assisted by State Crime Command, including the homicide squad, the Organised Crime Gangs Group, forensic specialists and intelligence officers.

I know that our police will not rest until their investigations are complete. They will continue to work until justice is delivered and they will continue to keep working hard for the safety of our communities.