




Speech By
Melissa McMahon

MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2019

MOTION

Newman LNP Government, Performance

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (11.36 am): I rise to speak in support of this motion. This inept LNP opposition has a poor track record when it comes to police and police resources no matter how much those opposite attempt to speak it up, because under the LNP it was the same story for police—sack, sell and cut. During the Newman years those opposite sacked 110 senior commissioned officers from the Queensland Police Service and a further 212 non-commissioned police officers.

In their first budget in 2012-13 here in Townsville police were told to tighten their belts and funding for new operational equipment for police was slashed by almost \$24 million. At that time Townsville's senior police were warned that vital equipment like cars and computers was not going to be purchased for the new police recruits graduating. That particular LNP budget for new and upgraded equipment was the lowest in three years, with cuts to equipment for recruits graduating from the police academy. This is the same police academy the LNP wanted to sell where our northern recruits are trained and deployed from right here in their own backyards. Do not get me started on the safe night out precinct here as well.

There was \$20 million for extra police and police training. The LNP did not deliver. It was even the Police Union President, Ian Leavers, who said at the time that Campbell Newman looked him in the eye and lied to him. As Ian Leavers said, 'If you're going to lie to a police officer, you'll lie to anyone.' The headlines in the *Courier-Mail* at the time showed that car thefts were on the rise as the dedicated police squad was cut. It was reported that that squad was going to be slashed from 18 members to three. At the same time the LNP axed a \$205,000 grant to the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council. The Insurance Council of Australia chief wrote to the LNP's then attorney-general, Jarrod Bleijie, warning that Queensland was the only state to baulk at the modest funding commitment and that this risked the future of a body that was actually saving millions of dollars.

The LNP today is cut from the same cloth. This Palaszczuk government is delivering more police for Townsville—more police and ahead of time, with 53 more officers. We are delivering body worn video cameras to every uniformed first-responding officer here in Townsville, with the rollout starting just this week. We have delivered two new helicopters to North Queensland—not one but two, a \$43 million investment. Unlike the LNP's pie in the sky promise, our helicopters will be in the air for more than an hour or so a day. This government is delivering more for police in Townsville and in Queensland.