



Speech By  
**Cynthia Lui**


**MEMBER FOR COOK**

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Record of Proceedings, 19 February 2020

## MOTION

### Crime

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (5.28 pm): I rise to oppose this motion. When I made my first ever speech in this House I brought with me a traditional island mat. For Torres Strait Islanders, that mat signifies life's journey from womb to tomb. I said at that time that, as I began my political journey, I would embrace the significance of what that mat represents—a place to sit down and create an open dialogue on various issues.

Today in this House, community safety is one of those issues. I am passionate about making a difference. That is why I joined the Labor Party. Unlike the LNP, Labor is making a real difference to people's lives. I know that under Labor there are more police in Queensland than ever before. I know that they are better trained and better equipped than ever before. This government backs police 100 per cent in what they do best—that is, keeping communities safe.

I know that regional Queensland is a big winner in Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll's vision for the future of policing. For the first time a deputy police commissioner will be permanently based in Far North Queensland. The Far North will be a separate region with its own dedicated assistant commissioner. There were 875 approved police officer positions in the Far North police district as at 31 December 2019. That is an increase in approved positions of 59 from 1 April 2015 to 31 December 2019. There are three specialist police domestic and family violence coordinators and 10 extra police to be rolled out by the end of June this year. This government has invested more than \$2.6 billion in our police in this budget, an increase of almost 20 per cent since we came to government.

Let us talk about community safety. The Greater Cairns Taskforce targets crime hotspots in the Far North. In November and December they conducted 4,484 street checks. The Cairns Safer Streets Taskforce is doing great work with at-risk young offenders helping to get their lives back on track. Project Booyah is giving at-risk young people in Cairns pathways to education, training and jobs. We have a police domestic violence high-risk team. Operation Quebec Paso boosts community safety with street checks, return to country and the seizure of drugs and alcohol. Two Police Beat officers are based at Stocklands Earville Shopping Centre.

When it comes to capital works and resources, this government backs our police in the Far North. Some \$12 million has been set aside to refurbish the Cairns Police Station. We have delivered a new multipurpose policing facility at Woree, refurbished the Police Beat on the Cairns Esplanade and opened a new police station in Gordonvale. A tender process is underway for the Saibai community safety and security facility. Funding has been allocated towards a replacement police facility and watch house in Pormpuraaw and planning for upgrades to the police facility and watch house in Aurukun. This government established a multiagency response to support safety in Aurukun.

I know that police are working closely with other government agencies, community leaders, elders and the government coordinator. I have been assured police will continue to work in partnership with the community, liquor retailers and hoteliers in keeping with the alcohol management plan. From July

to December last year police took action in relation to 37 incidents involving alleged breaches, mainly around the possession of alcohol. Further, the Aurukun police division has provided 24-hour rostered policing since 2016 to keep the community safe. In the Far North police district we have had delivered: 515 QLiTE devices for frontline police; 694 body worn cameras, with more on the way, for every uniformed, first responder police officer; 351 new tasers; 141 vehicles; and 16 vessels.

Compare our record to that of the LNP. We saw a total police budget increase of 2.8 per cent. Given the rate of inflation that is a cut to police funding in real terms. They sacked 110 senior police and cut a further 212 police positions. They cut police training, reduced firearms training, cut funding to police helicopters and forced police to pay for their own body worn cameras. They slashed the auto theft squad from 18 to three. They axed funding to the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council. They broke a promise to provide \$20 million for extra police and police training to patrol safe night out precincts. As the police union president said at the time, 'If you're going to lie to a police officer, you'll lie to anyone.'

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Cook, you will need to withdraw the word 'lie'.

**Ms LUI:** I withdraw. I am proud to stand in the House as part of a government that looks after the interests of all Queenslanders. When I stood in this House for the very first time I recounted the words of my grandfather, the late Getano Lui Senior: 'Do your best. Never give up.'

*(Time expired)*