



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2020

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**North Queensland, Police Resources**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.58 am): Our record police budget is helping deliver significant developments for the Queensland Police Service. The delivery of 53 extra police for Townsville has been accelerated to be in place by June, and today I can announce that 24 of those extra officers have already been deployed—four months early. There is a lot happening with policing in the north of our state.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, you may not agree with the minister's statement, but he is not being provocative in the statement that he is making. I ask you to cease your interjections.

**Mr RYAN:** In recent days the Police Commissioner has spoken about her vision for the future of policing, and it is clear that regional Queensland is a big winner. Historic changes are afoot. For the first time a deputy police commissioner will be permanently based in North Queensland. As well, the far north will be divided into two smaller regions, each with its own dedicated assistant commissioner. The two new North Queensland regions will be administered from Cairns and Townsville respectively and the new deputy commissioner position will be based in Townsville. I take this opportunity to congratulate Deputy Commissioner Paul Taylor on his appointment to this role.

**Mr Mander:** More bureaucrats!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Everton!

**Mr RYAN:** The newly established deputy commissioner role will be responsible for policing across all of regional Queensland. I do take that interjection from the member for Everton. I note that the member for Everton called our police officers bureaucrats—all of them bureaucrats, career bureaucrats. How insulting!

**Mr MANDER:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will wait for order before I hear the point of order.

**Mr MANDER:** I found those comments personally offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Woodridge will direct his comments through the chair. Minister, will you withdraw?

**Mr RYAN:** I will withdraw. I note that I also took the member's interjection, so I will be reviewing the *Hansard* later.

**Mr Costigan** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Whitsunday, you are warned under the standing orders. It is always in the timing, members. Minister, can I ask that your withdrawal is not qualified.

**Mr RYAN:** It is unqualified.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Please continue.

**Mr RYAN:** I congratulate Deputy Commissioner Paul Taylor, a fine public servant and community servant. He will do very well in that role. The newly established deputy commissioner role will be responsible for policing right across regional Queensland. In effect, Townsville becomes police headquarters for regional Queensland.

I note that the commissioner will also announce today the appointment of three new assistant commissioners. Detective Chief Superintendent Cheryl Scanlon has been promoted to the rank of assistant commissioner after more than 30 years with the Queensland Police Service. Cheryl has spent the last few years with the Crime and Corruption Commission and I must say she is a very fine officer. Chief Superintendent Kev Guteridge has also been promoted to assistant commissioner. Kev is well known for his expertise helping communities deal with floods and cyclones and has been a strong advocate in his appointments across the north, including Mount Isa and Townsville. Finally, Chief Superintendent Ben Marcus has been appointed to the rank of assistant commissioner. Like Cheryl and Kev, Ben has devoted more than 30 years to protecting the community and has been stationed in remote, rural and island communities over his distinguished career. I note that he is currently the district officer for the Logan district and has been leading some outstanding police work in that area.

I note that the commissioner will also announce that Assistant Commissioner Brett Schafferius will take up the assistant commissioner role in Townsville. Assistant Commissioner Schafferius is well known in the north and I know his very fine service to the community will be appreciated by North Queenslanders. I applaud the commissioner's emphasis on regional Queensland.

I also note the Queensland Police Union's support for the changes the commissioner has introduced. Queensland Police Union President Ian Leavers said the commissioner's decision to have standalone police regions in both the north and the Far North was very welcome. Mr Leavers said it is very long overdue and corrects a very disastrous decision which was caused by a previous LNP government. With Commissioner Carroll at the helm, clearly the Queensland Police Service is in good hands.