




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2020

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Police Resources

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.35 pm): Community safety and jobs are important priorities for the Palaszczuk government, and with our backing of the Queensland Police Service with our record police budget this year we are delivering both. As I speak, there are currently more than 300 police recruits undergoing training in Queensland. There are 55 of those recruits in Townsville at the Townsville police academy, which our government kept and committed not to sell, unlike those opposite. I am advised that the Townsville cohort of recruits is due to graduate next week on 25 May. The people of Townsville will be pleased to know that many of these new police officers will be staying in Townsville. In fact, our government is delivering on our commitment to deliver 53 new officers for Townsville two years early. That was meant to be delivered by June 2022, but we will have them delivered by the end of June this year.

There are also a further 258 police recruits undergoing training at the Oxley academy. There will be graduations in May and July and more later in the year. This significant investment in training new police officers is part of the government's commitment to deliver 535 extra police personnel by June 2022. There are more police in Queensland than ever before and there are more coming. As I mentioned yesterday in the chamber, we recently passed the 12,000 mark of the number of police officers in Queensland for the first time ever. Not only do we have more police than ever before but they are also better equipped and trained than ever before. Our government has invested in ensuring every frontline first responder has a body worn camera. Just last week, we delivered a new patrol boat to the Gold Coast Water Police, and there are also new police facilities well progressed at Caboolture, Coolumb, Cairns, Newtown and Highfields.

Mr Harper: And Upper Ross.

Mr RYAN: And Upper Ross—delivered early as well. These projects deliver local construction jobs. Add to that our government's investment in extra police and the job-creating infrastructure projects that we have, and honourable members can see that our government is delivering not only for Queensland jobs but also for community safety. I pay tribute to our frontline police officers and also the people behind the scenes—those frontline support officers, the administration staff and the people who work in police headquarters who support the front line. They are very courageous Queenslanders. We owe them a debt of gratitude. Our government backs them, not only with a record police budget but also with a commitment to support them and provide the laws that they need to keep us all safe.