



Speech By  
**Melissa McMahon**


**MEMBER FOR MACALISTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 19 February 2020

**MOTION**

**Crime**

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (5.49 pm): I rise to speak against this motion. This may come as a surprise—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs McMAHON:**—but for those of you at home—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I do not need your assistance, member for Logan. Members to my left, the member has barely begun her contribution. Cease the interjections.

**Mrs McMAHON:** As a former police officer, I saw firsthand the damage that the LNP government caused to the police service. There were cuts to staff, cuts to resources and cuts to lifesaving programs. In just under three short years of the LNP government the Coomera police district was closed—and aren't we seeing the effects of that to this day—110 senior police gone and a further 212 positions lost. The auto theft squad was cut from 18 to three. They axed funding to the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba and unknown members to my left, I can hardly hear the speaker on her feet. The interjections will cease.

**Mrs McMAHON:** They reneged on their promise to provide \$20 million in extra police and police training for Safe Night Precincts, and we all know how the Police Union president responded to that. Here is one that I can definitely speak to: cuts to police training and cuts to firearms training for our officers. Almost immediately upon the LNP taking office the police recruit training program was restructured and training times at the academy were cut. There was less driver training time, less firearms training time and a reduction in staff-to-recruit numbers. Police recruits undertook reduced or often no station duty time during their recruit time. In fact, many graduated without having ever set foot inside a police station before graduation. When these police recruits graduated what did they face? Being stuck in a desk-bound position because they did not have the equipment to patrol their divisions. There were no accoutrements, no cars to patrol their divisions. That was the state of the police service under the LNP. The LNP does not seem to remember that many of those public servants who were subject to their 'tough love' were unsworn staff within the QPS. I can recall speaking to station OCs who were devastated at the loss of their admin staff. What the loss of admin staff meant was that uniformed staff had to take more time off the road to fill the jobs that admin staff were doing.

Can I tell the House what else disappeared under the LNP? Transparency. The QPS collects annual data and crime stats, and under the LNP they refused to release those stats to the public. They refused to let people know what was happening in their neighbourhoods, but this Palaszczuk Labor government believes in openness and transparency, and we make these stats available to the public.

Speaking of stats, I am pleased to enlighten the House that the most recent QPS annual report—if people want to actually look at statistics and data—shows an increase in public perception of safety in Queensland across a range of metrics. Luckily for Queenslanders and luckily for our police we have a Labor government in power, because that means that there are more police than ever before and they have more resources than ever before. The police budget has increased since 2015. There are an extra 1400 QLITE devices and more tasers. We are rolling out body worn cameras to all uniformed staff because the LNP expected police to pay for their own body worn cameras. There has been \$41 million spent on police vehicles—police vehicles the LNP did not bother to provide to the police when they were in power—so they can be out there in the community. There are more water police vehicles and 24 new specialist domestic violence coordinators throughout Queensland, and there has been an expansion of the specialised domestic and family violence courts to deal with these problems. There has been \$4.1 million to expand roadside drug testing as part of the Action on Ice package and \$2.4 million to make Taskforce Orion a permanent fixture. This government has taken these steps and many more to give our Queensland police the tools and resources they need to do the job. There are more police than there were under the LNP and they have more resources.

**Mr McDonald** interjected.

**Mrs McMAHON:** I am not sure if members opposite were paying attention, but we are currently debating a police powers bill. Yes, we are providing them with the tools, we are providing them with the resources, and we are dealing with the legislation to give them the power to do what they need to do—

*(Time expired)*