



Speech By
Jonty Bush

MEMBER FOR COOPER

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2021


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

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Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill

Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, Report

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (6.57 pm): It gives me pleasure to speak in support of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report. During the estimates process we heard of the important work done in the last term of the Palaszczuk government in fostering safer communities and contributing to keeping Queenslanders safe, because caring for Queenslanders' safety and wellbeing is a key pillar for our economic recovery. Firstly, I must acknowledge the outstanding performance of the Queensland Police Service during this reporting period and throughout the global public health emergency. It has been an extraordinary year and the Queensland Police Service has demonstrated once again the depth and breadth of its capability.

During the estimates process we heard how police have been at Queensland's front line helping to stop the spread of COVID-19, how they spent 250 days on our roads and borders turning around vehicles and in our airports and our quarantine hotels playing a critical role in crushing the curve. The minister and commissioner of the Queensland Police Service detailed the Queensland Police Service's disciplined and effective response to this crisis, with border controls preventing the virus from reaching our community and contact-tracing teams acting quickly to contain a handful of breaches. I want to congratulate and thank our Police Service.

We also heard about an area that is extremely important to me and to my electorate, and that is the Palaszczuk government's ongoing reforms to prevent domestic and family violence. There has been and continues to be an enormous amount of reform and investment in responding to domestic and family violence since the release of the *Not now, not ever* report. The Palaszczuk government has allocated \$152 million to the Office for Women and prevention of domestic and family violence for this financial year. This represents an increase in funding for counselling and crisis responses to keep women and children safe and court based support for both victims and perpetrators. There has also been an increased investment in women's shelters and mobile centre based support services with seven new shelters built across Queensland since the election of the Palaszczuk government in 2015 and programs through the department of housing that will find anyone escaping domestic and family violence a place to stay that same day. No-one should have to sleep on the street or in their car because they are fleeing violence.