



Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (6.37 pm): Honourable members have to look at what they do, not what they say. I am always happy to answer the LNP's questions if only they will ask me questions. It was not until the last session of my estimates hearing that I received one question from the LNP. We went for hours and hours and it was the last session on QFES, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, when I got one question.

Those opposite come into the chamber and they say, 'Ministers don't answer questions.' The member for Currumbin just said it. The member for Currumbin just said the ministers at her session did not answer questions. If she wants us to answer questions, give us the questions; I am happy to answer them because I am happy to talk about the achievements of the Palaszczuk Labor government. I am happy to talk about our record investment. I am happy to talk about why our investment in the police space is double the amount they would have made had they been elected. I am happy to talk about our investment in firefighters, increasing the number of firefighters whereas they wanted to increase them by none—357 for us; zero for them. There are 2,025 police personnel for us; less than half for them. There is also our investment in corrections where we are building new prisons, where we are restoring public operations of prisons compared to their election commitment of privatising prisons, sacking public servants, undermining the operations of the publicly run corrections system here in Queensland.

I am always happy to answer the questions. Those opposite just have to ask those questions. For them to come into the House and say that we do not answer questions is actually misleading. One need only look at the transcript to know that fact.

At estimates we heard about this government's record investment in the agencies for which I have responsibility. There is a massive investment—the biggest investment in 30 years—in the Queensland Police Service. It is one of the most historic investments. There is over \$600 million to grow police personnel over five years by an extra 2,025. Over the next five years there will be 150 extra police officers in the south-eastern region, which includes the Gold Coast. I think the commitment from those opposite at the last election was a handful for a couple of stations on the Gold Coast. We are talking about 150 for the south-eastern region, which includes the Gold Coast, over the next five years.

Of course, our investment goes further than that. It is about investing in the infrastructure that we need not only to support police now but also to support the growth in police numbers. We see new police facilities right across the state being funded as part of our \$300 million police capital works

infrastructure program. That supports new facilities such as at Kirwan in Townsville—a new \$30 million facility. It will support a new police facility at Caloundra South—the first time ever. There will be a new police facility out at Ripley.

Mr Bleijie: That's because it's a new estate. Of course it's going to be the first time ever!

Mr RYAN: What did those opposite commit at the last election? Nothing for Caloundra South, nothing for Kirwan and nothing for other locations across the state. We are committing to the infrastructure that our police need to deliver the good services they do every day to keep our communities safe.

We also are investing in corrections. We heard about our massive investment in that space. At the new prison at Gatton, shovels will hit the ground in the next month or so. That is a \$650 million capital works program which supports jobs and infrastructure for Queensland Corrective Services so that it can continue to do its good work in keeping our communities safe.

We have massive investment in Queensland Fire and Emergency Services as well, supporting the good work they do every day. We are working with the Rural Fire Service—providing more equipment, providing more appliances, supporting the rollout of more experts in bushfire mitigation. We are supporting the work of our fire and rescue service with new appliances and new equipment, and we are growing the number of firefighters over the next five years by 357.

When it comes to investing in emergency services, police and corrective services, this budget shows that this Labor government delivers. We support the workforce, we provide for their equipment and infrastructure needs and we grow the workforce so that they can get on with what they do best, which is keeping us safe, supporting community safety in Queensland.