



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**

**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2021


## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

### **APPROPRIATION BILL**

#### **Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

#### **Appropriation 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) (12.15 pm): I start by acknowledging all the participants in this year's estimates process—members of parliament, committee members, departmental representatives from the agencies for which I have portfolio responsibility and Hansard staff. As members know, estimates is a very thorough and detailed process and a lot of work goes into it. From the outset, I want to acknowledge all those contributions.

In this year's estimates we heard in the portfolio space of police, corrective services, and fire and emergency services about our record investment in each of those portfolio areas. We heard about the record investment in the Queensland Police Service—more than 2,025 extra police personnel over five years. We heard about the record investment in Queensland Corrective Services, delivering hundreds more staff but also a massive investment in infrastructure, including a big new custodial correctional facility at Gatton—the 1,000-bed therapeutic model correctional centre in the Lockyer Valley. We also heard about the record investment in Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. It is a record operating budget for the fire and rescue service, a record budget for the Rural Fire Service and a record budget for the State Emergency Service—all of them up this year. Our historic investment in Queensland Fire and Emergency Services will deliver 357 extra firefighters over five years.

These are watershed investments and prove what we say every single day—that is, Labor governments are good for frontline public safety agencies. We invest in the front line, we invest in more personnel, we invest in the resources they need and we deliver the laws that those public safety agencies need to keep our communities safe.

Mr Speaker, if you listen to those opposite, the first thing they always whinge about is not having enough time. In this year's budget estimates we had another record—that is, record time for those opposite. Sixty-five per cent of the time available for questioning was used by the opposition—almost double the time for non-government members to ask questions. Of course we did not really have many good questions anyway. We always had excellent answers but not many good questions at all.

There was a 'gotcha' moment for the member for Kawana. He thought that he had 'got' us when we were speaking about kids in watch houses. He ran off to the media gallery and said, 'I've got the government. I've caught them out.' What the member for Kawana did not appreciate was that young people have always been in watch houses for normal processing times. That is always the process. For

a member of parliament who used to be a minister responsible for youth justice not to know that it is a normal part of processing arrests that people are held in watch houses is a bizarre conclusion for that member to reach.

We also saw some bizarre moments from the member for Burdekin. He was taken by surprise by a few things. They are a little bit confused about youth justice laws. Let me make something very clear for them: recently, in fact only last week, we heard from the Queensland Police Service—we always take advice from the Queensland Police Service—about the laws they need to keep the community safe. What did Assistant Commissioner Cheryl Scanlon say? When she was asked whether she thought breach of bail would assist with helping to keep the community safe she said, 'No, I don't. I have been policing for well over 30 years ... but that,' breach of bail, 'is not the fix for the issues we are faced with here. She went on to say, 'The reverse presumption of bail'—that is what the government has done; we listened to the police—'is a very tough measure and we're seeing that actually taking effect.'

Youth justice senior executive director Michael Drane said, 'The changes to the bail legislation are the toughest in the country. There's no doubt about that ... there is no tougher legislation.' That is what this government is delivering because we listen to the experts and we provide our frontline public safety agencies with the resources they need.

Another interesting thing is I was talking at estimates about our investment in youth justice and I was talking about the specialist youth justice prosecutors. I even spoke about the one in Townsville. Only a week or so later the member for Burdekin said, 'We want one of these in Townsville!' He was quoted in the newspaper. Only a week earlier I talked about it in estimates and said there was already one in Townsville. He had to go on to say, 'You caught me out on that.'

There is record investment in our public safety agencies because this government believes in community safety. We believe in our public safety agencies, and we will continue to support them and back them in with the tough laws they need.