




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Emergency Services

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.05 am): Under a Labor government, budget time is always a special occasion for Queenslanders. It allows the Treasurer to highlight the astute financial management of the Palaszczuk government and our rock-solid plan for better services, good jobs and a great lifestyle for Queenslanders. Budget day is not the only time that this government shows its commitment to this great state. We are a full-time government. We work for Queensland communities every day of the year. Today's budget will highlight our government's ongoing and record commitment to supporting and enhancing the hardworking front line of community safety in our state.

Last week's community cabinet in Stanthorpe was another important opportunity to talk about the Palaszczuk government's critical investments in regional Queensland. Certainly it was good news for the police and fire and emergency services in the broader region. For instance, at Toowoomba I joined the Police Commissioner to announce that, because of the government's historic commitment to growing the Queensland Police Service by 2,025 additional police personnel over five years, an additional 29 frontline police officer positions would be deployed to the Darling Downs district this year, including four officers for Goondiwindi Police Station, allowing that station to have a full-time, 24/7 operating model for the first time and a new mobile police beat for the district. The remaining positions announced by the commissioner will be allocated to key frontline policing roles, boosting the response in the Darling Downs district, including dedicated investigative positions to focus on youth crime.

I was also able to confirm that the \$15 million upgrade of the historic Warwick Police Station was entering the final design stage, with construction due to start next year. The upgrade of this Queensland heritage-listed building is another example of this government providing the resources needed by our front line.

It gave me great pleasure to join the member for Southern Downs for the official handover to firefighters at the Warwick fire station in the state's south-west of a new Urban Water Tanker. The new 9,000-litre UTank, valued at almost \$700,000, ensures our firefighters in south-western region can continue their life-saving work and is a significant boost to their firefighting capability.

Our firefighters, our Rural Fire Service, our marine rescue volunteers, our police, our SES personnel and our corrections officers all play a vital role in ensuring we can maintain the lifestyle we have come to expect in Queensland. One way in which we can thank them for their commitment to the community is to ensure that they have the tools to support their work and their service. The Palaszczuk government is truly a government for all Queenslanders in all regions not just on budget day but every day.