



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**

**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2022


## **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) (2.41 pm): I start by acknowledging all of the participants in this year's estimates process: the members of parliament, committee members, departmental representatives, Hansard staff, ministerial staff and committee staff.

Our record 2022-23 budget invests more than \$5 billion in better services for the Queensland Police Service; Queensland Corrective Services; Queensland Fire and Emergency Services; and Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management. Investing in police officers, firefighters and custodial officers is evidence of our government's commitment to good jobs and better services to support Queensland's great lifestyle.

It was very disappointing in this year's estimates to see that the opposition—as always—tried to demean and undermine the contributions particularly of departmental staff. I particularly note their playing of politics with the Police Commissioner's testimony in their statement of reservation. A review of the transcript—you always have to look at it in context; you never accept as fact the assertions of those opposite—shows that the opposition has deliberately, obviously and maliciously selectively quoted the Police Commissioner. As the transcript shows, the commissioner was referring to a very small window of data which is prone to fluctuations due to a range of factors. The Police Commissioner made it very clear in the transcript in estimates that the approved police strength and police officer headcount give the clearest snapshot of the increase in police numbers over time. To be frank, that is the measure that has been used by both sides of politics to measure police numbers and strength in the state. If the opposition chooses to not accept that measure, then that is a deviation from past practice and further evidence of their deliberate maliciousness when they selectively quote the Police Commissioner.

The facts are that this financial year the approved police officer strength is expected to increase by 370 positions, which will take the total increase in approved police officer strength under the Palaszczuk government to over 1,200 positions, with more to come. I am advised by the Queensland Police Service that the government's election commitment to deliver 2,025 extra police personnel remains on track. I am advised by the Queensland Police Service that it has achieved its police officer growth and recruitment targets for the first two years of the election commitment. I commend them on their efforts in this regard.

The fact is that if the LNP were elected there would be 1,000 fewer police in Queensland. Ian Leavers, President of the Queensland Police Union, said publicly of the 2020 election commitment, 'What I did get out of the LNP was a commitment of nearly 400 new police officers across the state of Queensland. I got a commitment from Minister Ryan and Annastacia Palaszczuk of 1,450 new police officers over the same period of time.' The commitment they made to Ian Leavers was 1,050 less than the commitment this government made—1,000 police officers less in Queensland.

Despite all the talk from those opposite in estimates, they did not manage one question to the Police Commissioner or me about youth crime—not one. They are all talk and no substance. We saw evidence of that in respect of their statement of reservation on Queensland Corrective Services, choosing to talk down professional custodial officers demonstrating heroic actions and saving lives.

In respect of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, I am assured by the commissioner that the election commitment remains on track—an additional 357 firefighters over and above attrition. We were also able to highlight at estimates the record budget for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services—a boost of \$38 million for Rural Fire Service, SES and the marine rescue services.

I thank the member for Toohay for his excellent chairing of the committee. As the member for Noosa acknowledged in her statement of reservation, the chair allowed opposition and crossbench members extra time to ask additional questions, proving it is a fair process and a good one.