




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Ipswich, Policing

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.51 pm): I am proud to report that groundwork is currently underway at the new Ripley Police Station. This sets the first stage of development of the newest police facility in Ipswich. Two weeks ago the member for Bundamba and I visited the site. It was really exciting to see the work already commenced. Ripley Police Station is just another in a long line of successful infrastructure projects we are building in the fastest growing area in Queensland. If people are unclear about what members of the LNP think of Ipswich, I am here to remind them that my LNP predecessor cut one ribbon during his tenure. That ribbon was cut on a project that was fully funded and delivered by the previous Labor government.

Ripley has seen three new schools open in the last three years. A new satellite hospital opened in August. A new ambulance station is currently under construction. We have provided catalyst funding to unlock land for new housing, with the population of Ripley Valley—that is just one suburb in the area—set to grow to 120,000 people by 2046. It is imperative that we build this infrastructure now rather than in five years, when it is too late.

The \$25 million police station at Ripley was a commitment that we took to the last election. We are proud to see this being delivered in the community. It is also being made possible by the record \$3.28 billion we committed in this year's budget to police services. Residents in Ripley are very much looking forward to welcoming this new infrastructure. I am also looking forward to seeing the new station up and running. I know that it will be a start-of-the-art facility—larger than the current Yamanto Police Station, which it will replace. I recall speaking to former superintendent Katherine Inness when she was in the role. One issue she raised with me was the need for larger headquarters. I am sure that anyone who has been to Yamanto Police Station would concur. The crew were rapidly outgrowing their current headquarters and something needed to be done. I was really happy to work with her towards her vision for a brand new first-class police station in the Ripley area. It will better serve our community which, as I have said, is the fastest growing local government area in Queensland.

I am in awe of the work that the police do every day to keep our communities safe. It is a tough job. There are many courageous professionals putting themselves on the front line every day to tackle crime and domestic and family violence, to enforce road safety and to provide assistance during disasters. On the same day that the member for Bundamba and I looked at the site of the new police station we attended the launch of a new mobile police beat in Redbank. Wherever I go in Ipswich, people are talking about these mobile police beats. They are a fantastic addition to the assets of the police and are resonating really well in our community.

Wherever I go in Ipswich, people talk to me about their concerns about crime, but what they want to see our government focusing on is early intervention. That is why I was so pleased to learn that Ipswich would become a site for our government's ground-breaking youth co-responder teams. I want

to thank Minister Di Farmer for including our region in this successful model of early intervention. I know that the member for Bundamba, the member for Ipswich West and I were delighted to be a part of the launch of this program. It is being deployed in Ipswich to help break the cycle of youth crime and to enhance community safety.

The Ipswich youth co-responder team is one of five new co-responder teams that our government has launched across Queensland since 2020. Since they have been deployed, police and youth justice workers have been patrolling the streets together to help deter young people from offending. The statistics show that young people who come into contact with these co-responder teams comply with directions given to them 95 per cent of the time. Each time these teams engage with a young person is an opportunity to divert them from breaking the law as well as to check up on their welfare, to make sure they have safe housing and to connect them with support services, education and training.

It is not an easy task. It is not a sign of us being too soft on crime. We know that there are serious repeat youth offenders out there who need to be detained for community safety. We are investing in programs that work. We do not need hardline, punitive measures that are more about political pointscoring than actually helping young people. The LNP are old hands at this. We all remember how Campbell Newman's LNP government dealt with youth crime. We do not want to see a repeat of that. We do not want to see a blatant disregard for legal conventions; we want to see evidence-based policy. That is why I am proud to be a part of this government.