




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2023

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE: ARNOLD, MR M; DARE, MR A; MCCROW, MS R

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (12.04 pm): Those evil events of last year near Tara which led to the deaths of two of our finest Queensland police officers have sent shock waves across our state and our nation. Two police heroes, Constable Matthew Arnold and Constable Rachel McCrow lost their life while on duty doing what they were trained to do. Two other police officers, Constable Randall Kirk and Constable Keely Brough, were also involved in the incident as well as an innocent member of the public, Alan Dare, who was also killed. The sacrifice of those two police officers and the willingness of the neighbour Alan to investigate what was going on will never be forgotten by Queenslanders.

Our serving officers of the Queensland Police Service, who assist Queenslanders day in, day out in their efforts, are greatly appreciated but not always acknowledged in the way they should. It is horrific events like this that highlight the dangers that our police officers face and the fact that the service has lost two wonderful constables. Family friends and their colleagues all have seen the outpouring of grief from everyday Queenslanders—genuine grief—and the realisation of the dangers that are faced by our police. As a son of a former police officer, I can say there was never a time when it crossed my mind that my father would not be coming home. Unfortunately, for these constables' families that is not the case. No doubt this tragedy is devastating for us all.

I want to extend my condolences to the families of the police officers and also Mr Dare. I extend my appreciation to the Queensland Police Union for the work they continue to do and to the Queensland Police Service. Truly with honour they serve.