




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MOTION: CAIRNS, TOWNSVILLE AND REDLANDS ELECTORATES

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.57 pm): I rise to support the amendment. I am very pleased to stand alongside some outstanding colleagues in this House, on this side of the chamber. I was mentioning this morning how we have the best team and the best government. I have known a lot of members not only in my time here in this chamber but also beforehand, and I have to say that we have the best member for Thuringowa, the best member for Cairns and the best member for Redlands that this chamber has ever seen. I could say a few things about the members for Broadwater and Burdekin; they are far from the best—far from the best!

I want to talk about the best team we have here and the contribution that the members for Cairns, Thuringowa and Redlands make to not only this parliament but also their communities and Queensland. I have a lot to do with them because they are very strong advocates. They are constantly advocating for their community. However, it is not just words when it comes to them; they deliver. I have to say that I have not met members who are as decent, hardworking and committed as these three members. They are tenacious in their advocacy.

I will outline a few highlights in my portfolio area of the things that they have delivered for their communities. The member for Redlands has been a constant advocate for her community and she has ensured that new police facilities and new police resources are delivered for her community. Two new boats for the Redlands Water Police—well done, member for Redlands! In fact, the member for Redlands' advocacy has also led to increased police numbers on Russell Island and Macleay Island. Through her strong advocacy she has also ensured that her community is getting a new fire station at Mount Cotton Road, and progress is being made.

The member for Redlands is a strong advocate for our volunteers on the water—Marine Rescue. Well done to the member for Redlands. As a result of the member for Redlands' advocacy, the government made an election commitment in her electorate to ensure that we transform marine rescue services in our state—a \$27 million per year commitment to marine rescue volunteers, all because of the member for Redlands.

Let's move on to Cairns and the strong advocate that the member for Cairns is. I run out of words and bits of paper when it comes to the facilities that the member for Cairns has helped deliver for his region. Are honourable members ready? Are they holding their breath? There is the Cairns police facility and the Cairns West police facility—not one but two facilities—the Woree police facility, the Cairns communication centre, the Cairns McLeod Street office, Gordonvale police facility—he supported his neighbour—and new mobile police beats as well as new fire station facilities. That is all because the member for Cairns is a hardworking, committed, decent member who sticks up for his community.

The member for Thuringowa is part of that mighty North Queensland team that we have. He has delivered significant resources for his community such as the Kirwan police facility, which will now also host the new Townsville police academy. That is the academy that those opposite wanted to sell off.

Not only has the member for Thuringowa saved it, but he has also ensured the government is committed to a significant upgrade. There are new police facilities, new fire facilities and even the little things like the SES sandbagging machine. It is not just the big things; it is also the little things that the member for Thuringowa delivers for his community.

This is a government for all Queenslanders. We back the front line and we back communities. We are a great team because of the great people in our team. They are hardworking, decent, committed members of parliament who stick up for their communities and deliver for their communities. Queensland is a better place because of them.

Those opposite seek to drag down these hardworking MPs who stick up for their communities—calling them names, dragging down their reputation. These are the representatives of those communities. An attack on these representatives is an attack on those communities because these members stick up for their community. We should be very proud of them and their efforts.