




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Police Service, International Award

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.01 am): The Queensland Police Service has a reputation internationally as a world-class policing service, and now there is further proof. The Queensland Police Service just yesterday picked up another international award. The Palaszczuk government has always supported the Queensland Police Service 100 per cent. The Palaszczuk government has made the investments to make sure police have the best equipment possible. Our record is strong and proven and includes a record \$3 billion police budget which provides funding for a cutting-edge integrated load-bearing vest. These vests were completely designed in-house by the Queensland Police Service. The vests not only allow police to safely carry their firearm, taser, baton, handcuffs, radio and body worn camera while performing their duties but also provide added protection against offenders who may be armed with knives or firearms.

That vest and its design, which was also subject to exhaustive analysis and trials by the Queensland Police Service, has just won an international award. The international awards were held by the Network Association of Uniform Manufacturers and Distributors, a non-profit trade association established in 1932 and dedicated to advancing the interests of uniform, image apparel and public safety equipment companies, along with the associated protective equipment and innovation that assists in the protection of military, law enforcement officers and first responders. The independent judges, based in the United States, evaluate the programs based on originality of design, projection of branding, functionality for the job and use of technology and innovation. The Queensland Police Service integrated load-bearing vests, also known as The Enforcer EVO, has won the international award for best design within the Tactical PPE category.

I want to specifically acknowledge the dedication and investment into this project by Acting Senior Sergeant Lisle Manthey, who has been the driving force behind the integrated load-bearing vest and its design, along with the project team. I would like to acknowledge now Acting Superintendent Tim Mowle, who was the original lead officer on this award-winning project.

Well done to the Queensland Police Service. It proves yet again the dedication and commitment of the Queensland Police Service to its members and the community. The safety of its members and the safety of the community are always paramount.

In respect of the rollout of this award-winning vest, as of yesterday, more than 5,000 officers have been measured for their vests, more than 4,000 vests have been ordered from the supplier, and nearly 2,000 vests have been delivered to police stations across the state. Additionally, an initial delivery of more than 100 vests is due to arrive in Cairns this week for officers in the Far North. I am hoping to arrange a demonstration of the integrated load-bearing vest for members at regional parliament next month. The Palaszczuk government will always invest in the best and, in this case, internationally award-winning technology to support our world-class policing service that works so hard to keep Queenslanders safe.