



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 9 May 2023

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### Police Resources

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (2.40 pm): It was only hours ago that Ian Leavers said—

Prior to the last election, what I negotiated was 2,025 personnel over five years—1,450 sworn—150 to each police region and the Commissioner as she should has discretion to place those police around the state as she sees fit.

That was the best commitment at the time. The other commitment I got was nearly 400 police over the four to five year time period.

This is what he said: '1,450 is better than 400.'

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr RYAN:** Just wait.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order, Leader of the Opposition! The Speaker gave you some guidance this morning.

**Mr RYAN:** It was at that same time, only a few hours ago, that the Police Commissioner confirmed that the Queensland Police Service is now on track to recruit the additional 1,450 sworn police officers over and above attrition. She said—

Certainly, into the future I am confident we will meet those figures.

The governmental allocates the positions, so they're there. It's up to us as an organisation to fill them.

The gall of those opposite, the hide of those opposite, who when in government oversaw the sacking of 110 senior police, oversaw the sacking of 300 police personnel, oversaw the establishment of the Public Safety Business Agency which ripped hundreds of FTEs out of the Police Service.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Mr RYAN:** What did that mean for the Police Service? Again, we will come back to criticism by third parties who said, 'As a result of the cuts, what did we see? We saw admin staff stripped away from the Police Service which meant frontline police had to perform those functions.' Taking frontline police off the beat to do paperwork—that was their policy.

The other thing is that, if they had been elected at the last election, there would be 1,000 less police in Queensland. What would that mean for Cairns and the Far North? There would be 90 police less on the beat.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Mr RYAN:** What would that mean for Townsville? There would be 90 less police on the beat. There would be a thousand less police right across the state. What has this government done to back the Queensland Police Service?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members, the level of interjections is far too high. I have been attempting to bring you all to order. Member for Bonney, you are the last one I saw. You can go on a warning.

**Mr RYAN:** We continue to back the Police Service with the record budget, the record funding and the commitment to support them in their gross numbers. I am not sure where the opposition were this morning, but we have announced one of the biggest recruitment campaigns in the nation's history when it comes to recruiting police officers.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Everton, you are warned.

**Mr RYAN:** They have glass jaws and blocked ears over there, I think, Mr Deputy Speaker. They do not even listen to the announcements that we are making around supporting the Police Service with recruiting the numbers that we need to support community safety—\$90 million in incentives and additional support for the Police Service. It is one of the biggest recruitment campaigns in the nation's history. Already, as a result of the efforts that the commissioner has put in place in partnership with the Queensland Police Service over the last few months, we now have the strongest recruitment pipeline in years. A thousand people in the recruitment—

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member for Currumbin!

**Mr RYAN:** When it comes to actual numbers, a hundred are graduating next week. There are a hundred extra police officers hitting the beat next week. There are another hundred recruits joining the academy next week, bringing the numbers to over 300 at the academy. We continue to support the Queensland Police Service.

Our commitment, of course, also extends to ensuring that those police officers have the equipment that they need. In contrast to those opposite, who of course cut the equipment spend—

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mr RYAN:** I take the interjection from the member for Clayfield, who signed off on the cut to the police equipment budget—the lowest on record.

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Clayfield, you are warned.

**Mr RYAN:** We have boosted those resources. Now those officers have the equipment that they need—the additional police vehicles, the support for aerial assets. They have the additional equipment they need to keep them safe and the community safe.

Our record is clear. Our record of commitment to the Police Service is clear. Those opposite have a record as well, and it is one of cuts to the Police Service and cuts to community safety. We will always back in the Queensland Police Service.