



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2023

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Budget, Police Service**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.06 am): The Palaszczuk government's commitment to the Queensland Police Service is the strongest of any government in Queensland history—record funding and record support for more police personnel. There are 700 more police officers in Queensland now compared to when we were elected in 2015. The budget documents show in black and white that the funded personnel positions for the Queensland Police Service will grow by over 800 positions to 18,350 positions in the next financial year.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members to my left will cease their interjections.

**Mr RYAN:** Notwithstanding the current impacts on labour markets in all workforces and in all industry sectors around the world, the Queensland Police Service is aggressively recruiting against the recorded budgeted positions provided by the government. There are currently over 300 recruits at the Queensland police academies with a constable graduation scheduled for the end of this month. In addition, new recruit intakes are scheduled essentially every six weeks, with 120 recruits expected to join the academy next month. I am advised by the Queensland Police Service that there are more than 1,200 recruit applications in the pipeline, with almost 500 applications received last month alone. In addition, nearly 300 applications from skilled police officers under the federal labour agreement are in various stages of consideration.

The government's unprecedented nearly \$90 million police recruitment package includes: a cost-of-living training allowance for current and new recruits on top of the current recruit wage, which takes the current package to the equivalent of \$52,000 annually; waiving all application and preselection test fees, saving potential recruits up to \$1,000; waiving police academy accommodation costs, saving potential live-in recruits almost \$200 per week; up to \$20,000 towards the higher education debt of up to 400 successful police graduates who hold certain tertiary degrees; up to \$20,000 towards the relocation costs of up to 500 interstate and up to 500 overseas applicants who are serving or recently served police officers; a new initiative where staff members of the Queensland Police Service who are accepted into recruit training will remain on their previous pay scale while training, capped at constable pay level 1.1; and the 'Try it on' campaign, a recruit advertising partnership with the Queensland Police Union.

The Queensland Police Service commissioner has publicly confirmed that Queensland Police Service efforts to recruit an additional 1,450 sworn police officers over and above attrition are significant. The commissioner recently said, 'Certainly, into the future I am confident we will meet those figures. The government allocates the positions, so they're there. It's up to us as an organisation to fill them.' Only last month the president of the Queensland Police Union, Ian Leavers, said, 'Prior to the last

election what I negotiated was 2,025 personnel over five years—1,450 sworn—150 to every police region. That was the best commitment at the time. The other commitment I got was nearly 400 police over the four- to five-year period. 1,450 is better than 400.'

That is right; 1,450 extra police are way better than 400. I commend the Queensland Police Service for their innovative and significant recruitment efforts, and I look forward to more police personnel joining the Queensland Police Service over the months and years to come.