




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Wall to Wall Ride for Remembrance; SES Week

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.08 am): This morning I joined with former and current Queensland Police Service officers outside of parliament who are setting off on their way to Canberra for the annual Wall to Wall Ride for Remembrance in honour of officers who have fallen in the line of duty. They will carry a baton—a handcrafted, wooden style classical police accoutrement—engraved with the wording ‘we will remember them’ which houses a scroll bearing the names of serving police officers who have died in the line of duty.

This year the names of Queensland officers, Constable Matthew Arnold and Constable Rachel McCrow, will be placed in the baton and then immortalised in Canberra at the National Police Memorial. We will never forget the sacrifice of Matt and Rachel at Wieambilla as they acted to protect our community.

Today marks the midway point for SES Week, a statewide celebration to recognise and thank our SES volunteers. It celebrates these brave men and women who continually go above and beyond for their communities, keeping Queenslanders safe. Our SES volunteers respond to a range of disasters and emergencies, including cyclones, storms, floods, forensic searches, cliff rescues, landslides and missing persons searches. Last financial year they spent over 90,000 hours performing operations and an impressive 330,000 hours preparing and training. The good that our SES volunteers do for our community is immeasurable. They put the needs of their community ahead of themselves and we owe them our thanks.

This week SES volunteers have been recognised for their contributions at regional award ceremonies across the state and a state award ceremony will be held this weekend. The Palaszczuk government is backing the State Emergency Service with record investment through our emergency services reform program. This year, the record \$57 million State Emergency Service budget is a 32 per cent increase on last year’s already record budget. It is investing in additional staff and resources for volunteers.

Today I can announce that from this record budget, over \$1 million will be allocated for replacement flood boats and over \$4 million will be allocated for support vehicles, trailers and light and medium storm vehicles. Funding has also been allocated for enhanced equipment, including stretchers, battery-operated lighting kits, trauma training and resuscitation kits, CPR manikins, training defibrillators and mobile phone boosters to increase safety and capability. The uplift is an investment that strengthens the State Emergency Service as our government works closely with all stakeholders, and mostly our stakeholders who are SES volunteers, to ensure we build a strong and sustainable State Emergency Service for both today and tomorrow.