



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2023

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Community Safety**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.50 am): When it comes to supporting community safety, the government continues to adopt a multifaceted approach: making record investments in police—introducing some of the toughest laws in the nation—but also introducing innovative programs that support people in their daily lives. The engine immobiliser trial is progressing extremely well in the three communities identified by the Queensland Police Service as the appropriate trial sites. So far, over 11,000 vehicle owners in Cairns, Townsville and Mount Isa have obtained vouchers to have a secondary engine immobiliser fitted to their vehicles. It is encouraging also that we are hearing from industry representatives and from police that they cannot identify a Queensland example of a vehicle fitted with a secondary immobiliser being stolen. Queensland police are also supporting the rollout of the technology by engaging in community expos, like the one in Townsville over the weekend, to provide information about how local residents can obtain the voucher.

The secondary immobiliser technology is sophisticated technology. The essence is that even if someone steals the car keys to a vehicle they still cannot start it without disengaging the secondary engine immobiliser. This trial could have very significant implications for our nation. Our ambition is that the trial will provide us with the evidence to take to the federal government and prosecute the case for a requirement that all vehicles coming into Australia be required under the Australian Design Rules to have a secondary immobiliser fitted.

Another very significant government supported initiative that is proving to be very effective is Operation Victor Unison. The government provided the Queensland Police Service with additional funding so that, right across the state, police have the resources to conduct extreme high-visibility police patrols. The extra patrols as part of Operation Victor Unison are over and above normal calls for service and everyday policing operations. Officers are engaging with young people in public spaces, patrolling businesses and residential areas, conducting bail checks, interacting with the community, undertaking wandering operations and taking enforcement action against those committing offences. Police are also deploying mobile police beats in communities across Queensland where officers base themselves and engage with the community.

The Queensland Police Service has advised me that so far under Operation Victor Unison they have conducted nearly 100,000 extreme high-visibility community patrol activities. More than 4,000 adult offenders have been charged with nearly 7,000 offences and more than 2,000 young offenders have been charged with more than 4,000 offences as a result of these Operation Victor Unison enforcement activities. The boots-on-the-ground operation is providing more opportunities for police to engage with the community. It is also disrupting and preventing crime, engaging with young people and providing the supports at-risk youths need to avoid or break the cycle of offending. Community safety is paramount, and I wish to commend the Queensland Police Service for its dedicated efforts in respect of the engine immobiliser trial and its relentless efforts as part of Operation Victor Unison.