



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 October 2023

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Bushfires; Emergency Services Personnel**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.49 am): I join the Premier in expressing my condolences to the family and friends of the gentleman who has been found deceased near Tara. I know that police will conduct a thorough investigation into the circumstances. It is truly a tragedy. I also want to reinforce what the Premier said earlier about the bushfires, and it cannot be said often enough: if you are told to leave, please do not return until advised by the authorities that it is safe to do so. There are evacuation centres currently set up in Tara, Chinchilla and Millmerran and a comprehensive range of emergency hardship assistance is being made available, as announced by the Deputy Premier. I know the people fighting the fires have been unrelenting in their efforts to protect their local communities and I want to join every member of this House—in fact, every Queenslanders—in offering them our sincere and heartfelt thanks for their dedication and commitment to their communities and to the safety of everyone who lives in their communities.

As we are witnessing right now with the bushfires across the state, our frontline workers are critical to the safety of our communities, and that is the case every day, every night in every corner of our state. Every day police officers disrupt and prevent and respond to criminal behaviour. Every day custodial officers are keeping contraband out of prisons and managing the most dangerous people in our population. The work of police and corrections officers is vital, which is why the Palaszczuk government is working to bolster their numbers. In Queensland's police academies right now, there are currently almost 600 recruits undergoing training. In addition, there are approximately 1,400 applicants in the recruitment pipeline, including over 300 international police applicants and nearly 200 interstate and New Zealand police applicants. This is due in part to the Queensland Police Service's agile and innovative recruitment strategies which were supported by our government with a \$90 million incentive and recruitment package. I am advised by the Police Commissioner that these incentives are working, with a 152 per cent increase in the recruiting pipeline as compared to January this year.

It is also worth noting that under this government Queensland Corrective Services has become the most professional corrective services agency in Australasia. Our correctional officers are the best trained, best equipped and best paid in the nation. Like the Police Service, Queensland Corrective Services has ramped up its recruitment and attraction efforts and so far this calendar year over 400 custodial officers have graduated from the Correctional Officer Entry Program and there are another 195 currently in training and due to graduate this year. That means that Queensland Corrective Services is on track to deliver more than 600 new custodial officers this year. The Palaszczuk government will always invest in the front line, creating good and permanent jobs for Queenslanders.