




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Bushfires, Fire and Emergency Services; Police Service, Recruitment

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.55 am): Our frontline heroes have, as always, shone in recent times. We have seen extraordinary efforts from extraordinary citizens during our state's bushfire emergency. We owe all of them a debt of gratitude and we are safer because of their efforts. We also remember the three people who died in the Agair plane crash as they were undertaking aerial firefighting duties on our behalf. Our thoughts and condolences are with their families, friends and colleagues.

This morning I had the great pleasure of witnessing what is believed to be the single largest parade of police recruits on record in Queensland history. More than 500 recruits gathered at the Oxley Police Academy, and what a sight it was! When you add the extra recruits undergoing training at the Townsville Police Academy, we have close to 600 new police officers on the way in our academies right now. Some of the recruits we saw this morning are on an accelerated training regime. These are people such as the recruit who was formerly a member of the London Metropolitan Police who saw the light and decided to move to the Sunshine State for warmer days and higher pays.

There are more police recruits on the way. There are currently over 1,600 applicants in the recruit pipeline. More than 200 of those applicants are people who have served as police officers either interstate or in New Zealand, and there are more than 300 applicants in the pipeline who hail from other overseas jurisdictions. In total, the Queensland Police Service has received around 3,500 applications this year. Last week police recruiters interviewed approximately 100 further applicants with policing experience. I am advised that, because of the demand, additional recruiting staff have now been allocated to the academy to assist with processing applications.

I commend the Queensland Police Service for its agile and innovative approach to recruitment in what is a very challenging labour market for all sectors of the economy. The government has delivered funding and positions for the Queensland Police Service, and now the Police Service is delivering new police officers for our state. Working together, the government and police are creating great permanent, secure and satisfying jobs which will help improve safety in our communities.