



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 November 2023

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Weather Events; Police Service, Recruitment

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.58 am): Queenslanders know that we live in a land of extremes, and that is exactly what we are seeing right now: rain, storms and below-average temperatures in the south of the state and severe heatwave conditions developing in the north. State Emergency Service crews responded to 17 storm related calls for help in the Ipswich, Scenic Rim, Logan, South Burnett and Rockhampton areas yesterday. Rain areas will continue across eastern Queensland during today, though the risk of heavy rain has now eased. However, severe thunderstorms with local heavy rainfall, damaging winds and large hail will be possible across the southern interior of the state today. The severe thunderstorm risk will become more likely across southern and south-eastern Queensland on Wednesday, and there will be potential for isolated very dangerous thunderstorms with locally giant hail and destructive winds during this afternoon. Severe to locally extreme heatwave conditions will develop across parts of northern and Central Queensland this week and a heatwave warning is current.

In addition, Queensland will always back the front line to support the community, and the Queensland Police Service is continuing its aggressive, agile and innovative approach to recruitment. I am advised that the Queensland Police Service has appointed new officers, the regional recruitment officers, who will be based in various regions across the state to further enhance the recruitment capacity of the Queensland Police Service. These regional recruitment officers will be based in Townsville, Rockhampton, on the Gold Coast, in Toowoomba and in Brisbane, but they will deploy to all regions across the state when needed. The primary focus of these newly appointed positions is to further increase what is, I am advised, an already very healthy recruitment pipeline. It is no wonder it is healthy; the campaign has really ramped up. Anyone watching the many replays of Australia's great win in the One Day International World Cup cricket last week could not fail to have seen the 'Try it on' TV campaign inviting young people to consider a career in policing. It is not just cricket; it is police recruitment, too.

Police recruitment is going to the movies. Movie goers will see the police recruitment campaign on the big screen when they go to see the new *Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom* movie or *The Marvels* movie. There are currently nearly 600 recruits undergoing training in our police academies. This is a Queensland record. I am advised there are almost 1,600 applicants in the recruitment pipeline. That includes more than 300 international applicants and more than 200 interstate and New Zealand police applicants. This is significant because, depending on their level of experience and its recency, those applicants with previous police experience can be fast-tracked through training and can complete their course in roughly half the time it takes a new recruit.

The Queensland Police Service is undertaking its biggest ever recruitment campaign because it is the biggest ever investment by a Queensland government in community safety.