



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

---

Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2023

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Arnold, Mr M; McCrow, Ms R**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.58 am): We said we would not forget them, and we have not. As we approach the 12-month anniversary of the tragic deaths of Constable Rachel McCrow and Constable Matthew Arnold, the deaths of these two fine young people will be forever etched in the collective memory of the broader police family. The loss of Rachel and Matthew came about because of the callous, the brutal, the unspeakable actions of a trio of perpetrators. I will not name the perpetrators; they do not deserve it. They do not deserve to be remembered. They do not deserve anything other than eternal condemnation.

I will say this: it is tempting to think of evil in the abstract, as a notion that has little application in our daily lives, but Wieambilla shook our souls—it showed us that evil can be real. It was evil that took Rachel and Matthew from our midst, but those foul, dark and evil deeds sparked a reckoning, a reckoning of the soul. In the end, evil was puny and was overwhelmed by good. The police family and the broader community came together. The many who were hurting—family, friends, colleagues and loved ones—were all enfolded within a communal embrace. That communal embrace was real; we all saw it. We saw it at police stations across the state: the impromptu, spontaneous memorials—the endless flowers left there. Those memorials are still there. In a way, it is a memorial to what is best in us. It is a memorial to our humanity, a reminder that people like Rachel McCrow and Matt Arnold are the light. They are the light that outshines the darkness of evil, and we will never forget them. Never forget, Rachel and Matt.