



Speech By  
**Trevor Watts**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2023

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Police Resources**

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (2.12 pm): When it comes to police numbers, whose numbers should we believe? Firstly we should look at the character of the police minister. This police minister has been described as 'deceitful in his actions'. 'Mr Ryan had a big, dirty secret.' 'I feel utterly duped by the dishonesty.' They are statements made about this police minister when he was dealing with the Pullens. Then it was all about power and politics over truth and honesty. There was no transparency at all; just politics and power.

The hubris of this police minister is excessive. It is unbelievable that he can stand here and quote numbers that he himself knows are not being delivered on the ground. He knows it is an empty promise. What he and this Premier have proven by not going to Toowoomba is that they are full of arrogance. The Premier refused to come and look my community in the eye. She sent a police minister there with a bunch of fictitious numbers that do not reflect the number of boots on the ground in Toowoomba. The minister knows that, the Premier knows that, and now the whole of Queensland knows that. It was a display of arrogance and hubris.

These people are not listening to the people of Toowoomba. They are not listening to the people of Queensland. They have not planned appropriately for the numbers they told people at the election. They have not delivered on those numbers. The academy cannot cope; it cannot recruit. They are trying to spin their way out of it with a load of politics. It is all about keeping power, trying to assure people they are safe in their homes. Let me just say that a person in Toowoomba looking at someone standing in their front room with a two-foot-long machete is not feeling safe, and they are certainly not feeling safe about some fictitious numbers about approved strength. We want to see boots on the ground; people through the academy.

Look at the retention that is happening under this police minister. People are desperately waiting for their defined benefit to come through so they can walk away from the force because they are overworked. They are not being looked after. The minister does not care about them. He does not treat them with respect.

The police force is finding it really tough to keep the community safe under this government, which has done nothing at all. They are not acting. They are not listening. They do not care about the community of Queensland; it is just about politics and power. What we have seen is poor planning, a lack of response, a tin ear and a load of spin. That is what we see. Let's face it, Minister, empty promises are not going to keep Queenslanders safe. What they want to see is boots on the ground. Just as an aside, can we build somewhere to put children rather than adult watch houses? Come on, Minister, do your job!