




Speech By
Barry O'Rourke

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Record of Proceedings, 17 April 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Rockhampton Electorate, Crime Prevention

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (10.01 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, as you would be aware, community cabinet was held in Rockhampton last month. Our Premier, Steven Miles, and ministers held cabinet meetings and met with organisations and individuals to discuss concerns. To combat crime the Miles government announced extra police allocations, with an additional 26 police positions to be based in the Rockhampton area between now and midyear and an additional 10 police vehicles. I am proud to say that these allocations are part of the biggest investment in the Queensland Police Service in 30 years. The Queensland Police Service has determined that the extra police positions will be allocated to the Yeppoon, North Rockhampton, Emu Park and Rockhampton police stations and for the Capricornia police district domestic and family violence and vulnerable persons units.

The Queensland Police Service is currently undertaking its largest training and recruitment program in its history, with over 500 police recruits currently at Queensland's police academies and over 2,000 applications in the police recruitment pipeline statewide. Additionally, high-visibility policing operations continue to support public safety in the greater Rockhampton area. More than 8,700 proactive activities including crime hotspot patrols, business and shopping centre walk-throughs, service station drop-ins, bail compliance checks and community engagement are being conducted by police and police liaison officers during the first year of an extremely high-visibility police operation. The patrols under Operation Whiskey Unison are in addition to the coordinated day-to-day police operations and paroles conducted by frontline police. The ongoing high-visibility patrols have resulted in people being arrested for 379 charges for drugs, weapons, property crime and bail offences. The rapid response team Taskforce Guardian has also been deployed to Rockhampton three times since May last year.

Our government backs police 100 per cent. That is why we are seeing a record investment and the aggressive recruiting strategies that police are employing to put more police in the community. Like everyone in my local community, I greatly appreciate the efforts of our local police officers and the duties which they undertake each and every day to support community safety.