



Speech By  
**Barry O'Rourke**


**MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2024

**MOTION**

**Miles Labor Government, Travel Expenses**

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (5.47 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment to the motion. Community safety is everyone's business. Everybody should be safe in their home and feel safe in their home. I was very proud to be part of the Premier's listening tour as he visited regional Queensland to ensure our government is continuing to listen and deliver. We are investing in more police than at any time in Queensland's history. We have given them the tools they need to do their jobs.

This week the Miles Labor government has announced a major uplift in Queensland Police Service personnel—900 extra positions over three years as part of its Community Safety Plan. This builds on our government's existing 2,025 personnel commitment, bringing the total investment to more than 3,000 additional police personnel. In the Central Queensland police region, which covers Mackay, Whitsunday and Capricornia, this investment will deliver 57 new police positions. This is on top of the 26 additional positions that were announced a month or two ago for the Rockhampton and Capricornia coast area, including 10 additional police vehicles. Our government backs police 100 per cent, and that is why we are seeing this record investment.

Like everyone in my local community, I greatly appreciate the effort that our police officers make each and every day to support community safety. We are also proud of the incentives and opportunities there are to make a career with the Queensland Police Service an enticing opportunity. There has never been a better time to join the Queensland Police Service with no application fees, free accommodation for recruits living at the police academy and an additional \$183 fortnightly cost-of-living allowance. Recruits at the Queensland police academies also receive a boosted training salary of approximately \$53,700 per annum. Police applicants have more than doubled since this time last year with 960 in the pipeline in April 2023, compared to 2,079 in April 2024. The plan is working, and more and more people are deciding to begin a career that is dedicated to community safety. This is what good policy looks like; it is not slick slogans and cheap sound bites.

The opposition are hoping to use youth crime to sail into parliament but when I am out in the community, people still remember. In Central Queensland, the LNP cut 288 frontline health jobs including 10 in child and family health; cut 80 local TAFE workers; cut 39 officers who were responsible for protecting the Great Barrier Reef; sacked over 37 agriculture and fisheries employees in the central region; sacked five workers at the Port of Gladstone; cut \$63.1 million in Central Queensland road funding; committed to selling Eventide and North Rockhampton nursing homes, Gladstone port and the Stanwell Power Station; cut \$2.4 million in funding to the 10 community health organisations; cut \$1.5 million in funding from 11 local community support and local disability organisations like Anglicare that support vulnerable people in the domestic and family violence area—it was horrible what happened in that space; cut 56 workers from the road maintenance crews in Central Queensland; and cut the jobs of many of my friends who worked in QBuild in Central Queensland. It was terrible. People joked

afterwards about the box man turning up. They would just turn up at your desk, bring in the box and you would have to pack your gear and be escorted out of the building. The way the LNP treated public servants was terrible. Electricity prices increased by 43 per cent for Central Queenslanders. People have not forgotten what the LNP did to Rocky and to Central Queenslanders. We saw a huge downturn in our economy, and it was terrible for everyone involved.