



Speech By  
**Hon. Daniel Purdie**


**MEMBER FOR NINDERRY**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 December 2024

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Police Service Deaths, Anniversary**

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (9.47 am): It is two years since a dark cloud descended on this state with the murder of three Queenslanders—Rachel McCrow and Matthew Arnold, who served as police officers in the rural town of Tara, and Alan Dare, who was simply acting as a good neighbour. Few of us can forget that day—12 December 2022. These three Queenslanders became victims of a heartless and unprovoked attack that resulted in them losing their lives in Wieambilla.

Constable McCrow and Constable Arnold were doing what we asked of them—serving and protecting their community. Alan Dare was looking out for those who lived near him, little expecting the brutal fate that lay in wait. Rachel and Matthew represent the very best of our Police Service. Their dedication, enthusiasm and professionalism are the very qualities that we require from members of the Queensland Police Service. What is even more telling is the bravery they demonstrated in the face of an ambush driven by the most evil of motives.

We should never forget that they were not only part of the police family but also part of the local community. The people of Chinchilla and Tara welcomed them and embraced them. They became part of the fabric of these towns, became friends with so many residents and participated in so many community activities. The important thing they demonstrated was the way in which country police are integral to the communities they serve. This is one of the strengths of our rural and regional police officers.

The way in which the Western Downs community responded to the deaths of these two officers is ample proof of the high regard in which they were held. The people of these towns offered their unwavering support to the families of constables McCrow and Arnold, as well as all the police officers who serve the area. All Queenslanders recognise the sacrifices that our police make to keep us safe. It is tragic that the events of two years ago bring home to us the real nature of that sacrifice. Events at Wieambilla demonstrate in the most stark and tragic way the debt we owe to our police.

Simply through a willingness to serve, these two constables, with the prospect of long and successful careers ahead of them, made the ultimate sacrifice. They will be remembered forever with their names now etched into the wall of the Queensland Police Memorial where the Premier and I and some of those opposite paid our respects this morning. In contrast, the names of their murderers will disappear into oblivion, never to be recalled. We will remember Constable Rachel McCrow, Constable Matthew Arnold and Alan Dare with affection and respect. Their sacrifice stands as a monument to the willingness of ordinary people to take extraordinary steps when faced with insurmountable odds. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten. With honour they served.