




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Police Service, Community Safety

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Community Safety) (10.01 am): The Queensland Police Service is currently conducting three parallel and ongoing intelligence-driven public safety operations, which are supported 100 per cent by the Miles government. These operations are enhancing community safety and, I am told by police, are reducing criminal offending in some areas. Operation Whiskey Unison has been operating for over a year. This operation is defined by its use of extreme high-visibility police patrols. These patrols are above and beyond the Queensland Police Service's everyday, business-as-usual operations. These extreme high-visibility police patrols were made possible by specific funding from this government.

So far, Operation Whiskey Unison has resulted in more than 11,000 offenders being arrested on almost 19,000 charges. Statewide efforts have included more than 170,000 proactive activities, including hotspot patrols, shopping centre walkthroughs, bail compliance checks, community engagements and other activities. Police say the community, including business providers, have responded very positively to these patrols through high pedestrian traffic areas.

In addition, police recently announced Operation Whiskey Legion. Whiskey Legion is a rolling police operation to reduce crime in communities across the state. The Acting Police Commissioner says communities can expect to see a surge of police officers in their area as part of rolling operation deployments across Queensland. The first deployments have already occurred in Ipswich and Logan. Operation Whiskey Legion targets those high-risk, high-harm offenders. During the Ipswich and Logan operations, over 400 offenders were charged with almost 900 charges. These offenders were charged with serious offences, including robbery with violence, breach of domestic violence orders, unlawful use of a motor vehicle and burglary.

Police advise Operation Whiskey Legion also focuses on crime prevention by using high-visibility policing. A total of 485 hotspot patrols were conducted at local shopping centres and local businesses in the Ipswich and Logan areas. In addition, over 2,400 random breath tests were conducted, almost 1,400 street checks and almost 1,000 business walkthroughs. Importantly, almost 650 reported crime files were cleared, with police making contact with the victims of these crimes to support them, update them and ensure that they continue to feel supported by the Queensland Police Service. This is extreme high-visibility, boots-on-the-ground policing, and I commend the Queensland Police Service for their proactive and dedicated approach to supporting the community. Police say further deployments to other regions are imminent.

Another policing initiative that is currently supporting the community is Taskforce Guardian. Taskforce Guardian is a dedicated flying squad of experienced detectives. The taskforce has deployed to multiple centres across the state, including Townsville, Logan, the Gold Coast, Ipswich and Toowoomba. In total, more than 60 deployments across Queensland have been made to date, with the most recent deployments in Mackay, Rockhampton, Hervey Bay and Cairns.

Taskforce Guardian operations have resulted in more than 1,200 people being arrested on 4,000 charges. Police advise that Taskforce Guardian, like Whiskey Legion, employs a surge capability to saturate the targeted area with police officers to disrupt and prevent crime. Police advise that, while it is very early days, Taskforce Guardian has played a key role in driving down certain crimes in a number of districts across Queensland. The Queensland Police Service is backed 100 per cent by the Miles government and is providing its full might in the effort to support community safety right across the state.