




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 30 April 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Community Safety

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Community Safety) (9.47 am): Community safety is at the forefront of what the Miles government does. We will today announce the Community Safety Plan for Queensland. It will mean more police, more resources, more intervention, more prevention, more victim support and stronger laws. We will deliver stronger laws. We will deliver record investments in police. We will lead the nation in police recruitment.

Mr Purdie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Ninderry, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr RYAN: Importantly, we are providing police with the tools they need to support communities right across Queensland. Our Community Safety Plan for Queensland is about supporting victims, delivering for the front line, detaining offenders, intervening when people offend and preventing crime before it occurs. Our plan is about making Queensland a safer place.

We have seen how effective the Polair aerial capability is in South-East Queensland, and since establishing Polair in Townsville, we have seen how effective it is at assisting regional police operations also.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba North and member for Clayfield.

Mr RYAN: Based on advice from police and the strong advocacy of government MPs across the state, the government is providing police with funding to expand Polair to other regional areas of Queensland. A Polair capability will be established in Cairns and the Far North. This will enhance police operations in that region. In addition, Polair capability will be established to assist police on the Sunshine Coast and in the Wide Bay region, and police advise that this Polair capability will continue to significantly enhance police operations in those regional areas.

These Polair helicopters will deliver advanced camera, thermal imaging and night-vision capability. The aircraft will be deployed when police need them to assist police operations, including tracking offenders, surveillance operations and search and rescue missions. These historic investments in community safety and the Queensland Police Service build on the government's strong record.

Last week in Townsville we heard firsthand from police how the Polair's capability has assisted them greatly when it comes to tracking and arresting offenders. The footage that is captured by Polair's systems is used as evidence in court to prosecute offenders. Its capability also enhances the safety of officers on the ground and the broader community.

I acknowledge the advocacy of government MPs in Cairns, in the Far North, on the Sunshine Coast and in the Wide Bay. Their strong advocacy on behalf of their local communities has helped to deliver Polair capability to their local communities and for their local police. This investment in regional Polair capability is a watershed moment in Queensland history. It will forever deliver enhanced police operations right across our large state. I want to thank police; we are always guided by their advice. I acknowledge the Queensland Police Service's constant pursuit of enhanced strategies to support community safety. The expansion of Polair to regional locations is yet another example of the Police Service's commitment to the communities they serve and another example of how this government will always back the police.