



Speech By
Hon. Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

Record of Proceedings, 10 December 2025

MOTION

Wieambilla, Deaths

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (6.26 pm): I rise to support the amended motion as moved by the police minister. The deaths of constables Matthew Arnold and Rachel McCrow and neighbour Alan Dare are etched in Queensland's history as one of our darkest moments. There is no doubt about that. Friday is the third anniversary of their murders. Queensland stands with their families, their loved ones and their colleagues.

I attended Tara and Chinchilla two days after this incident. I spoke to those officers who put their lives on the line. I spoke to the SERT team who went in and retrieved the bodies of Matthew and Rachel. I saw the police vehicle with the bullet holes in it. I saw the look in the eyes of those officers and they will live with that for the rest of their lives. Nothing we say and do here today will bring Matthew, Rachel and Alan back, but we can certainly do everything we can to ensure that it never happens again, and we will.

Those opposite do not know what it is like to get that call on the radio to attend a job where shots have been fired, to attend an incident where someone is pointing a loaded gun at you, but go and talk to the members for Ninderry, Nicklin, Lockyer, Mundingburra and Mackay. Ask them what it was like to get that call.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! We are near dinnertime.

Mr LAST: The State Coroner handed down his findings and those 10 recommendations 2½ weeks ago. As we have said, each recommendation will be carefully and methodically considered by this government. Those opposite come in here and they have a very short memory. Let me remind this chamber that back in 2015—

Ms Grace: Oh, here we go.

Mr LAST: I hear the member for McConnel; she knows what is coming. While the former government were frantically watering down youth crime laws, they somehow forgot they had also signed on to the National Organised Crime Response Plan. This was not a vague communique; it was formally endorsed by every Commonwealth, state and territory Attorney-General and police minister at COAG, and that plan was crystal clear. Each jurisdiction implemented a firearms prohibition order scheme to confront the rising number of stolen guns, the growing use of illicit weapons by organised crime and the increasing harm being inflicted on communities across Australia. Of course, all the other states played their part.

The introduction of a nationally consistent firearms prohibition order scheme to target high-risk offenders who posed a risk to public safety and security would ensure it captured those crossing state

borders and that they would be identified, and what did the former Queensland government do? They did nothing. It was up to this side of the House to introduce the private member's bill the Weapons and Other Legislation (Firearms Offences) Amendment Bill 2019. What happened? It got kicked out at committee level because those opposite used their numbers. They used their numbers to kick it out and it never saw the light of day.

Four years—there have been four long years of nothing, and they ought to hang their heads in shame. Then they come in here tonight and pretend they are holier than thou. They pretend that in two weeks somehow all of these recommendations will be implemented. However, we trust our police. We trust them to give us the advice and they have started this work. They have already started the work on these recommendations with the justice department and the health department. We will get it right. We will get this right and the police minister has already had those discussions with the Queensland Police Service. We will take their advice and we will do this for Matthew, Rachel and Alan because it is the right thing to do. It is the right thing to do for their families. It is the right thing to do for Queensland. The police minister will make sure of that.

(Time expired)