




Speech By
Hon. Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 14 March 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Police Service, Personnel

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (9.46 am): Yesterday I was privileged to attend the swearing in of 155 police recruits from the Oxley Police Academy—the largest police graduation in 33 years. These new constables are just some of the hundreds in the pipeline to bolster police ranks across Queensland this year as a part of the government's plan to restore community safety and send the back-up our frontline police have been calling for. There are another 750 recruits currently training at Queensland police academies and there are more than 2,100 applicants in the pipeline.

What impressed me most about yesterday's graduates is they have already been part of the frontline response during Tropical Cyclone Alfred. I was privileged to meet many of yesterday's graduates while they undertook these important tasks just one week ago. They doorknocked thousands of residents and assisted with evacuations to help ensure the safety of their fellow Queenslanders. I could not have been more impressed with their dedication and hard work under difficult circumstances.

The government is determined that our police will have at their disposal the laws and resources to keep themselves, their colleagues and all Queenslanders safe. By boosting police numbers and introducing our Making Queensland Safer Laws, we will do everything possible to support our police officers. Unfortunately, under the previous government we saw record attrition rates, with hundreds of police leaving the job each year due to burnout, lack of support and mounting frustration. We are committed to overcoming this and making sure employment in the Queensland police, once again, becomes a desirable career choice. The one guarantee I can give is that as our police make individual and collective sacrifices, the Crisafulli government will always have their back.

Last night I told those graduates that the oath they swore is one of the most important acts any Queenslanders can perform. To protect life and property, preserve peace and good order and prevent the commission of offences is a huge responsibility but one those graduates, and all serving police officers, accept with enthusiasm. The constables who graduated last night included former law students, business owners, security officers and some who have already served our nation. They also included former police officers from New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Nepal, Germany, China and Korea. These new officers will be transferred to the four corners of the state to bring their experience, talents and training to assist their fellow Queenslanders. They will join the 55 I met at their graduation in Townsville just last month.

These officers will see the worst of the worst and the best of the best—sometimes in the same day. They will restore justice to a victim by solving a crime, bring comfort in someone's darkest hour and help someone open a door to a completely new and brighter life. Together they will begin a career of service which, though challenging, will be significantly rewarding. Service to the community is one of the greatest contributions an individual can make and these police graduates deserve our thanks, our support and our admiration.