




Speech By
Hon. Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Police Resources

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (9.58 am): The Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland and we are delivering for police to restore safety where you live. We are committed to giving police the laws and the resources they need, and we are doing just that.

As we announced yesterday, the Crisafulli government has proudly delivered on our commitment to provide the Queensland police with 6,546 top of the range Taser 10s, along with 1,623 tyre deflation devices; almost \$30 million—\$29.9 million—in funding for integrated load-bearing vests; and \$41.4 million to replace body worn cameras. We are also investing \$5.6 million in lifesaving tactical first-aid kits for every frontline officer; \$6.1 million to replace roadside breath-testing devices; and \$8.9 million for additional portable handheld radios. Our men and women in blue often place themselves in danger to keep our communities safe, so they deserve essential modern and reliable equipment.

After a decade of weak laws and underfunded police, the Crisafulli government is helping our state turn the corner. Taser 10s are a vital bit of kit in the police tool belt. They are renowned for their accuracy, range and ability to deploy multiple probes without the need to reload. It gives officers time and space to de-escalate conflicts and avoid using lethal force. It beggars belief that the former Labor government only committed to delivering 1,000 tasers by 2028. In stark contrast, yesterday we committed to a 650 per cent increase in the number of tasers. It was almost a cruel joke. Was a single taser really expected to be shared by a handful of cops on the front line? Like many Labor government decisions, it lacked practicality, risked safety and showed that Labor did not prioritise our police.

Before the election we told the Queensland Police Union that we would ensure every frontline police officer had access to a Taser 10, and I am proud to announce that we are delivering on that promise. It is not enough to just increase our front line; we need to invest in more equipment to support this growth. If our men and women in blue know that we have their back, we will foster a culture where they feel supported, valued and respected, and they will want to continue doing the job they signed up to do—to protect Queenslanders.

The benefits of more experienced and well-resourced cops will be felt right across the state. Queenslanders deserve a government that prioritises police resources to ensure that our communities not only feel safe but are safe. With the delivery of the first Crisafulli LNP government budget, we will do just that. For the first time in years our police have a government that is backing them in and delivering a fresh start for Queensland.