




Speech By
Hon. Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2025

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; JUSTICE,
INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE, REPORT**

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (5.57 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker Krause, with your indulgence and the indulgence of the House, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the tragedy unfolding in Victoria this afternoon. We know that two police officers have been executed in the line of duty and one other has been injured. I understand that the police are still frantically trying to apprehend the offender, who has some hostages in his custody.

Earlier this afternoon I spoke to the Victorian Minister for Police, Mr Anthony Carbines, and on behalf of the government, the parliament, the Queensland Police Service and all Queenslanders offered any support they may need and told him that our hearts are with them at this time. I know that the Victoria Police are a capable organisation and have resources at their disposal. I told him and all Victorians that our hearts and thoughts and prayers are with them and that we are happy to provide any support should they need it. It is eerily similar to the events at Wieambilla and we spoke about that. It is bringing back some memories for police and Queenslanders as well. Thank you for your indulgence.

I turn now to the budget estimates. It was very important for me, as a new minister—even though, as I pointed out on the day, I did not get asked any questions during the police component—to spend a lot of time with the acting commissioner and the senior police executive, our emergency services and Marine Rescue Queensland to interrogate every line item in the budget to ensure we were ready for this important process. I acknowledge members of the committee from both sides of the House, particularly the committee chair, the member for Nicklin, who is a former police officer and someone with whom I work very closely. I work very closely with him and the other members of the committee—particularly the members for Capalaba and Thuringowa. As the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, I work very closely with that committee in terms of their important role.

That is why I was a bit surprised by the question, and the No. 1 point in their statement of reservation was that those opposite had a concern about me working closely with the chair of that committee and with committee members, but I will continue to do that. I think that is one of the reasons, after a decade of decline, with the bills we have put forward and that the committee has interrogated, and with the budget, that we are starting to see 10 months of delivery, particularly around community safety and crime. I will continue to work with the chair and that committee.

A few other things were raised in the statement of reservation. We now know that the former government defunded the police. We are doing everything we can to properly fund our police to make sure they have the resources they need to keep themselves, their colleagues and the community safe. It was interesting that the opposition police spokesman asked a question about the EB negotiations that are unfolding at the moment. I want to tell the House that we will be doing things differently this time—that is, we will be funding in full those EB agreements when they are reached. The former government, as we now know, did not do that.

With the last two EB agreements, when the QPS and the union reached a suitable agreement for the Queensland police, those opposite did not fund it. The police had to find that money from existing resources. That is maybe one reason our police have been using obsolete roadside breath-testing devices. They are so obsolete that, when the Western Australian police were getting rid of theirs because the provider does not service them or provide parts anymore, Queensland police were basically getting them out of the rubbish from Western Australia and using parts to keep theirs going.

It is maybe why they have been using outdated tasers. The Queensland police have been given a record \$4 billion budget—\$380 million more than the last budget. One of the things I talk about a lot in this chamber is the provision of \$147.9 million for life-saving equipment to the police—top-of-the-range tasers, tactical first-aid kits for every police officer, new alcometers, tyre deflation devices, body worn cameras and vests. I am proud to do that because on this side we appreciate the sacrifices our police make and the risks they take. As we have seen unfolding in Victoria again today, police officers every day put their safety behind that of innocent people who, more often than not, they do not know. We will continue to essentially re-fund the police after a decade of those opposite defunding the police, and I am proud to do it.