




Speech By
Hon. Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Chelepy, Deputy Commissioner S; Police Resources

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (9.58 am): I rise to inform the House of the retirement of one of the state's most experienced police officers. Deputy Commissioner Shane Chelepy has served this state with distinction for almost 40 years. He is respected, trusted and steadfast. Known for his impeccable flat-top and knock-about nature, he is more comfortable being called 'Chopper' than 'sir'.

Shane Chelepy is a country boy who rose through the ranks, although he almost missed his calling to be a cop. Starting his work life in construction, it was his desire to serve that pushed him towards policing. He served across South-East Queensland before becoming a commissioned officer in charge of the state Water Police. Roles in counterterrorism at the strategic policy branch and at South Brisbane as the district officer followed. In 2020, Shane took over the unenviable role of operations commander during COVID. A sobering experience, Shane would later describe it as both challenging and rewarding. He likened it to his role as the state disaster coordinator.

The deputy commissioner has seen this state through floods, cyclones, fires, tornadoes and storms. He is as reliable as the weather is unpredictable—a steady hand in the midst of disaster, supporting Queenslanders through their most vulnerable times. He has learned to expect the unexpected, which is why earlier this year he did not flinch when he was tapped on the shoulder and elevated to the top job. With a moment's notice, he took on the role of commissioner with gusto. I know that his decision to hang up his blue uniform was not an easy one. On behalf of all Queenslanders, I thank him for his dedication to serving and protecting.

While the deputy commissioner is retiring, others are joining the ranks. The Queensland Police Service has grown more in the past 12 months than it has in the past five years. We now have an extra 453 police on the beat. Why? It is because the Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland. We are delivering on our commitments, which is why last week I was proud to attend at Burleigh Heads with the Premier and the local member to announce not only that the new police beat would be opened by Christmas but also more police. This was an election commitment we made to the people of Burleigh, who have been subjected to Labor's crime crisis. They called for it, the local member listened and this government delivered. We are also delivering funds for a new SES facility at Deception Bay. Just last week I was onsite to see the finishing touches being put on in time for the looming severe weather season. Delivering for Queensland is not just a slogan; it is about action and accountability.