




Speech By
Hon. Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 10 December 2025

MOTION

Wieambilla, Deaths

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (5.35 pm): Firstly, as we approach the third anniversary of that dark day in Queensland's history, I pay tribute to the two fine young police officers who lost their lives. Constable Matthew Arnold and Constable Rachel McCrow died alongside good Samaritan Alan Dare. I would also like to acknowledge the pain and suffering of their families, friends and colleagues, some of whom were there on that day.

The State Coroner's report is harrowing. The findings were handed down on Friday, 21 November, just 2½ weeks ago. It was difficult to read, but it is incredibly important. In his findings, State Coroner Terry Ryan detailed the crime that shocked a nation. He writes—

On the afternoon of 12 December 2022, four Constables from the Tara and Chinchilla police stations: Matthew Arnold, Rachel McCrow, Randall Kirk and Keely Brough, attended an apparently routine missing persons job at ... Wains Road, Wieambilla ...

The officers were seeking to locate Nathaniel Train, a former school principal, who had been formally registered as a missing person by the New South Wales Police Force ...

Less than two minutes after entering the property, and without warning, the officers came under fire from the Trains, resulting in the tragic deaths of Constable Matthew Arnold and Constable Rachel McCrow. Shortly after, concerned neighbour Alan Dare, investigating smoke emitting from the Trains' property, was also shot and killed. The findings continue—

At around 4:48pm, Constable Kirk tactically withdrew from the property ... was subjected to heavy gun fire as he fled, sustaining an injury to the hip and torso ...

Constable Brough remained trapped on the property, hidden in bushland, for a period of around two hours.

As a result of the shootings, a tactical police operation commenced, along with attempts to negotiate. Shortly after 10.30 pm, Gareth, Stacey and Nathaniel Train were shot and killed by SERT.

We will not politicise their deaths. The Labor opposition should hang their heads in shame. Those opposite would not know what it is like to stare down the barrel of a gun pointed at them by someone in anger.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members!

Mr PURDIE: They would not know what it is like to draw a weapon—

Mr J Kelly interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes, you are warned.

Mr PURDIE:—in the line of duty to protect yourself, your partner and the community while in fear for your life.

In this confronting report, State Coroner Terry Ryan has asked the government to prepare a response to his 10 recommendations over the next six months. This process will not be rushed. It is important we get it right after Labor's decade of neglect. We are about to hear from a long list of former police officers—some of whom have children on the front line at the moment. The next contributors to the debate from the other side should think about that.

We will give the Coroner's report and recommendations the time and thorough consideration they deserve. That will be done in a calm and methodical way. Rushed decision-making is fraught with danger and it risks not achieving the outcomes that would protect police and protect Queenslanders. Our government is not going to rush dealing with a truly horrific and tragic incident like this. This government backs our police. We will keep working to deliver the resources they need and the laws to keep Queenslanders safe.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Lytton, you are now warned.

Mr PURDIE: Those opposite had their chance. They are grandstanding on this issue, but they are not grandstanding on solid ground because back in 2015, while those opposite were focused on watering down youth justice laws, they forgot that they signed up to an agreement, formally endorsed by every Commonwealth, state and territory attorney-general and police minister—an agreement which stated every state needed to sign up to a firearms prohibition order scheme.

Before I continue, I move the following amendment to the motion moved by the opposition—

That all words after 'That this House' be omitted and the following paragraphs inserted:

- '1. acknowledges the third-year anniversary this Friday of the tragic deaths of Constable Rachel McCrow, Constable Matthew Arnold and Alan Dare.
2. calls on the government to calmly and methodically consider the State Coroner's recommendations in response to the Wieambilla murders.'

In 2015, those opposite signed up to a national scheme that every police minister and attorney-general endorsed—an organised crime response scheme to implement a nationally significant and consistent firearm prohibition order scheme, to take account of those people moving interstate. Other states played their part. Those opposite did nothing. In 2019, we introduced a private member's bill to do that, and they did not support it. They are not on solid ground when it comes to giving our police what they need to crack down on dangerous people with guns.

(Time expired)