



Speech By **Janelle Poole**

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Record of Proceedings, 10 December 2025

MOTION

Wieambilla, Deaths

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (6.01 pm): I rise in support of the amendment moved by our police minister, Dan Purdie. Every sworn Queensland police officer remembers where they were on that terrible day when they heard the devastating news of the deaths of Constable Rachel McCrow, Constable Matthew Arnold and neighbour Mr Alan Dare. Every single police officer had the same thought: 'That could have been me. That could have been my partner.' They also had the same thought for those officers who bravely provided back-up: 'I will be there in a heartbeat to support you.'

It remains one of Queensland's darkest moments etched into the hearts of every member of the blue family and every Queenslander who values service and sacrifice. This Friday marks the third anniversary of their murders. Queensland stands with their families, their loved ones, and their colleagues as we pause to honour three brave Queenslanders whose lives were taken in an act of pure evil.

As a former police officer and as someone who has supervised critical incidents throughout my career, I know the weight that sits on the shoulders of those who lead and those who serve. After every tragic event, every near miss and every situation that could have unfolded differently, you lie awake replaying the decisions that you have made—asking what you missed, what you could have done differently and whether another choice might have changed the outcome. That burden is quiet, it is constant and it is deeply felt, and it is why the loss of Rachel, Matthew and Alan cut so deeply into the policing community—but that is what true leadership is.

Their memories deserve more than political pointscoring. They deserve honesty, respect and considered action. The State Coroner, who handed down his findings and 10 recommendations only 2½ weeks ago, also deserves respect for his true leadership. Each recommendation is significant and far-reaching, and we as a government will carefully and methodically examine each of those recommendations. This process will not be rushed. We will not repeat the mistakes of Labor's decade of decline when knee-jerk reactions were too often substituted for genuine reform. Rushed decision-making is fraught with danger. It risks unintended consequences. This government will give the Coroner's report and its recommendations the thorough time and consideration they deserve. We will do that in a calm, methodical and respectful way because that is how a responsible government operates and that is what Queenslanders expect.

The safety of our frontline officers is, and always will remain, an absolute priority for this government. Our government has already proven that we back our police officers with the resources, the support and the laws they need to do their jobs and to restore safety where Queenslanders live. Our message is clear: this government backs police always, and we will continue to deliver the tools, resources and legislative strength needed to keep Queenslanders safe.

Knee-jerk reactions like those I personally saw during Labor's decade in power are dangerous—dangerous to officer's safety, dangerous to community safety and dangerous to the lessons that we must learn from Wieambilla. This Friday Queensland will pause to remember those heroes. While those opposite will choose politics, this government chooses respect, responsibility and real reform. That is true leadership. We honour Rachel, Matthew and Alan, not with motions but with meaningful action—carefully thought through, properly implemented and driven by the seriousness their sacrifice deserves. Lest we forget.