




Speech By
Martin Hunt

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Record of Proceedings, 10 December 2025

MOTION

Wieambilla, Deaths

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (5.46 pm): The date 12 December 2022, for police officers and their families particularly, is one of those days when you remember exactly where you were and what you were doing. At the time, I was a serving police officer and was on a day off, spending it with some police mates, actually, having a steak at the Brekky Creek Hotel. I recall there were some senior police officers at a table nearby. As we do, we exchanged hellos and continued with our group get-together.

I remember the mood of the senior police, at the table near us, change as they looked at their phones and looked at each other with horrified looks. What was a jovial atmosphere began to look very dark. One of them came over to our table—word was coming in that two police officers had been shot and were reported dead. That immediate sinking feeling is something that, unfortunately, every police officer knows if they have had at least a few years service. Over the years, far too many times news filters down on the loss of another officer, but this one was the worst. As news came in, none of us felt much like eating anymore as we tried to find out more. Do I know them? Are the other police safe? Is it still ongoing?

This turned out to be one of if not the darkest day in Queensland Police history. Two young officers—Constable Rachel McCrow and Constable Matthew Arnold—had been gunned down in cold blood on what they likely thought was a fairly routine inquiry. A civilian, Alan Dare, who went to assist was also killed without mercy.

This incident was different for me. You see, at the time, my daughter, a similar age to Rachel, was training at the academy to become a police officer. Every time I see a photo of Rachel, I think of my daughter, and I think of Rachel's parents and what they must be going through, taking nothing away from the pain and anguish of the families of Matthew Arnold and Alan Dare. I extend my deepest sympathies and condolences to the families.

Attending the funerals of the officers at the BEC with police in their hundreds to support the families and support each other in the blue family is a feeling that only police really understand—a feeling of deep sadness, coupled with a feeling of pride looking around at the hundreds of supporting officers. Being a part of that team is something that keeps police going. It keeps them showing up for each other and it motivates them to make things safer into the future. Of course, I came away from that and other incidents over the years wanting to keep police safer.

The politicisation of this issue is not surprising, but it is disappointing. I will not justify whatever it is the Labor members are going to suggest or their motivation in bringing this motion to the House, but I will address the families of those involved. Rest assured, there are six former police officers in the current government who will do everything they can to ensure the safety of our brave officers who run towards danger daily.

Ms McMillan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield!

Mr HUNT: We will do everything we can. The minister has already indicated that the Coroner's findings will be examined within the timeframes the Coroner suggested. I am proud to be a member of the same political party as the great John Howard, who took the brave decision to strengthen Australia's gun laws, which no doubt has saved hundreds of lives in the years since.

On Monday I took a walk through the botanic gardens across the road. Each time I go there I visit our police memorial and have a moment of silence to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, particularly Rachel and Matthew—and I think of their families as they remember that awful day three years ago.

To my daughter and the other proud serving officers of the Queensland Police Service: I know that you know that we have your back. We are giving you the laws, equipment and training to help you do your job safely and effectively. I could not be prouder—

An opposition member: That's not what they tell me.

Mr HUNT: I take that interjection: 'That's not what they tell me.' It is what they tell me, and I speak to them regularly. They voted in droves to kick you mob out. I could not be prouder to stand in this parliament and continue to advocate for the Queensland Police Service.