




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 10 December 2025

MOTION

Wieambilla, Deaths

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (5.51 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. I thank the member for Nicklin for that contribution. All of us in this place are thinking about the families of Constable Matthew Arnold, Constable Rachel McCrow and neighbour Alan Dare. I think we need to think about what the families have to say about what was a very extensive coronial inquest.

I have sat with many victims who have been through inquests. It is incredibly difficult for a family member to sit through a coronial inquest and hear the evidence. At the very end of that very lengthy process, they finally hear the findings and recommendations that are designed to ensure a tragedy like theirs never happens again. That is what we are talking about today. I completely agree with almost everything the member for Nicklin had to say: this really should be about the families and making sure no more families suffer this tragedy.

If we are going to think about the families, can I inform the House what Constable McCrow's mum has said about how important it would be for these recommendations to be implemented urgently? Judy—Constable McCrow's mum—said that she believes it is 'vitaly important' that all of the Coroner's recommendations are immediately implemented. This Premier and this LNP government have shown in the year that they have been in government that they can do things urgently when they want to. They can do things urgently even if the experts do not support them.

The State Coroner, Terry Ryan—one of the state's most experienced coroners—has sat through an incredibly lengthy and detailed coronial inquest and has put 10 recommendations on the table. He found that these deaths could have been prevented, and his recommendations are what will prevent the next tragedy. So far the government are not interested in listening to the families of these brave constables, these victims of crime. They are not interested. As much as they talk about their experience—and in this place we all value people's experience and where they have come from—they are not listening to the experts. The Queensland Police Commissioner and the Police Union are advocating hard that these recommendations should be supported and implemented.

The question is: why? When this Premier and this government have a track record of being able to implement things very quickly when they want to, why after hearing the passion from the police minister and the member for Nicklin about how they have the backs of our police are they not doing this now to prevent another tragedy? The only possible explanation is that there are some in the LNP who do not support these recommendations, particularly the recommendations that relate to reviewing whether or not we need mental health checks for people in Queensland to have guns. Why else would they not do this quickly, urgently, immediately, as Judy has said should happen? They clearly are too reliant on the gun lobby and its donations. They clearly have some within their party who do not want to see these recommendations implemented, so they are putting them off.

I did not think there could be a worse contribution than the train wreck press conference of the police minister on the weekend on this issue, but I think his contribution today was worse. Do you know what, Minister for Police? We are not politicising this. We are actually here today backing up the families of those slain officers who want this work to be done immediately. If that is what they call politicising, I hope they can sit down with these families face to face and explain to them why they are not doing this urgently. They can do it, and they have done it in the past. Shame on every one of them for not supporting this motion.

(Time expired)