



Speech By
Hon. Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Community Safety, Legislative Reforms

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (10.03 am): The Crisafulli government is making Queensland safer, fixing the failures of those opposite and delivering nation-leading reforms to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, terrorists and those who pose the greatest threat to our community. In the wake of the Bondi terror attack this government committed to taking decisive and measured action to limit the risk posed by individuals with extremist ideologies or violent histories who may have access to guns, and that is exactly what we are doing.

Soon we will introduce a bill that delivers a suite of targeted reforms. It includes new nation-leading laws with penalties to match. Those who traffic guns will face life in prison. For the first time drive-by shootings will become an offence. Police will have more power to disrupt crime gangs. However, it does not end there. We are going after criminals with guns, giving police the tools they need to intervene early before tragedy occurs and ensuring that guns are kept out of the hands of those who pose the highest risk to individuals.

These reforms also form a critical part of the Crisafulli government's response to the Wieambilla tragedy. The senseless murders of constables Matthew Arnold and Rachel McCrow and neighbour Alan Dare shocked this state and exposed the growing threat posed by violent extremism operating outside traditional law enforcement visibility. We owe it to their families, their colleagues and all Queenslanders to act decisively. We will introduce new mandatory mental health reporting requirements for professional carers in the public health system coupled with the mandatory medical and mental health requirements for weapons licence applicants. It means police will be told about those who pose the greatest risk. We will do this without delay, and I thank the health minister for his swift action.

Also central to these reforms is the strengthening of the firearm prohibition order scheme after it was botched by Labor. Not one single order has been issued under the laws introduced by those opposite. Why? Because they do not trust police. We will act to bring Queensland into line with other states, allowing the Police Commissioner the power to issue an FPO acting on criminal intelligence. FPOs prohibit high-risk individuals from possessing, using or acquiring firearms. That includes extremists, terrorists, bikies and those with murderous intent.

We are also investing more than \$5 million to deliver advanced drone capability for police. This will significantly enhance situational awareness, improve officer safety and strengthen police response capabilities, particularly in high-risk and remote environments. The funding will deliver 60 drones and 30 additional trained police pilots.

From March the Queensland Police will also commence the black spot eradication trial in the Western Downs, equipping police vehicles with modern communication technology and mobile high-speed internet, the first of which will be going to Tara. This delivers on a key election commitment

to ensure frontline officers are not left without critical communication when it matters most, particularly in rural and regional Queensland. These changes are what slain constables Matthew Arnold's and Rachel McCrow's families called for and they support the government's measured approach.

The Crisafulli government is taking decisive action to target criminals and terrorists with guns. Stronger laws, tougher penalties, safer communities—because community safety is not negotiable and we will do whatever we can to make Queenslanders safe.