



Speech By
Hon. Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 11 February 2026

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gollschewski, Mr S

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (2.27 pm): In 1980, when Malcolm Fraser was prime minister, Sir Joh was premier, news of a baby going missing at Ayers Rock was making headlines and Blondie was on the radio, a young man was taking an oath to serve and protect the people of Queensland, following in the footsteps of his father and older brother. At the time, he had lofty ambitions of maybe one day becoming a detective sergeant. Today that young constable retires as the 21st commissioner of the Queensland Police Service after 46 years of exemplary service. Only two other people in the history of Queensland have spent more time in the uniform. Today I stand in the House to pay tribute to Steve Gollschewski APM. 'Golly' dedicated his life to our police and our state and this morning he announced he is hanging up his hat.

In the 1980s, Golly served on the front line across Queensland. In the 1990s, when I first met him at Boondall CIB, he had already achieved his lofty goal of becoming a detective sergeant and I can confirm to the House that he had hair. Since then he has gone on to serve in senior positions in the Ethical Standards Command and State Crime Operations Command, where he was in charge of the State Intelligence Group and lead significant reforms in QPS intelligence. Following that he served as the Chief Superintendent, Operations Coordinator in Rockhampton. In late 2010 he commenced as Assistant Commissioner, Southern Region and had overall command of the operational response to the major flood disaster in the region, particularly the emergency response in Toowoomba and the Lockyer Valley and the subsequent major investigations into the tragic floods and loss of 24 lives.

In early 2012 he took command of the North Coast Region. In 2013 he took on the role of State Disaster Coordinator, leading the whole-of-government emergency responses to cyclones Ita, Marcia and Nathan. In 2015, Golly was appointed as Deputy Commissioner. During his service he was awarded the Australian Police Medal for distinguished policing service, in particular in the areas of intelligence, major investigations and integrity. It was in 2024 that Golly was appointed to the top job. As Police Commissioner he has been a steadfast leader. Since becoming minister, I have enjoyed a strong relationship built on mutual respect and a shared desire to ensure that the Queensland Police Service is focused on fighting crime and supporting our people on the front line.

Golly's recent health battles are well documented. His courage to beat cancer and return to work cannot be underestimated. On behalf of all Queenslanders, I would like to thank him for his service and dedication to keeping Queenslanders safe. I am sure there are a few crooks who are happy he is retiring too.

Of all the roles Golly has taken on, husband, father and grandfather are his most treasured. I am sure I speak on behalf of the Crisafulli government and all members in this place today when I say: Golly, enjoy fishing and your family, mate.