

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 577**  
**Asked on 12 May 2021**

**MR DAMETTO** ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to Townsville's ongoing youth crime crisis, the impact on police resources and the technologies available to aid police in tracking offenders—

Will the Minister acknowledge the benefits of using aerial support in police operations and commit to investing in drone technology to give officers the edge during the pursuit of fugitives in stolen vehicles?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised the Queensland Police Service (QPS) Service currently has a fleet of Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems (RPAS), known as drones, which are operated by a network of qualified pilots across the state.

I am advised that various QPS Units are currently utilising drone technology as an investigative tool with covert and overt application, including efforts to combat juvenile crime.

I am also advised that the QPS utilise high-tech, low light capable digital SLR cameras that can be operated by an officer covertly to combat hooning offences. Staff in Townsville and Cairns have now been trained in the use of the cameras located in those respective Districts. These cameras will be located and in use throughout Queensland by 30 June 2021

I can also advise that this government has delivered two new helicopters located in North Queensland to maintain community safety, bringing the overall rotary wing fleet in the north to three helicopters. The two new helicopters have Forward Looking Infra-Red camera capability which provides aircrew members greatly enhanced search and rescue and aerial observation abilities