



# Message from the Minister

This year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the state of Queensland.

When Queensland separated from New South Wales in 1859, there were 67 police officers and five police magistrates. The Queensland Police Force, now the QPS, was not formalised by Parliament until September 1863, with the passing of the *Queensland Police Act*.

Since then countless crimes have been solved and many dangerous criminals have been kept off our streets, with many instances of heroism as our brave police officers risked their lives every day to protect others.

Tragically, some of these brave officers lost their lives while undertaking their duties.

Since 1867, when two constables were murdered on gold escort duty, 137 officers have lost their lives in the line of duty. The Service remembers these officers and their families in a number of ways, including the naming of Water Police vessels and on National Police Remembrance Day on September 29.

Policing in Queensland certainly has come a long way in 150 years. In his first annual report in 1864, the state's first Police Commissioner noted Queensland's fledgling police force consisted of 151 constables for a population of 61,467.

Today's Queensland has more than 10,000 sworn police officers supported by around 4,000 civilians, based from Thursday Island in the north to Coolangatta in the south and west to Camooweal.

In 1864, Queensland's mounted constables received an allocation £20 to ensure they could purchase a horse and equipment, which the individual officer was responsible for feeding out of his own wages. This is a far cry from the latest police vehicles and equipment supplied today.

I am proud to be Police Minister in this Q150 year.

Professionalism, dedication and bravery are cornerstones of the QPS, with sworn officers and civilian staff living up to the Service's motto *With Honour We Serve* each and

every day in their service to the Queensland community.

Once again I thank you all personally for your support and loyalty to the people of Queensland, and I am sure the QPS is well placed to serve our state for its next 150 years.