

Former police officer Trent Christopher Birthisel found not guilty of rape

By [Rachel Riga](#)

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PHOTO: [Trent Christopher Birthisel leaving Mackay District Court.](#) (ABC News: Rachel Riga)

A former Queensland police officer has been acquitted of raping a woman while on duty.

Trent Christopher Birthisel, 31, was accused of sexually assaulting a 20-year-old woman who had asked for a lift home after a night out in Mackay in early February 2014.

He was acquitted of four counts of rape and one of sexual assault in the Mackay District Court.

Inside the court room, the complainant cried as the jury gave its verdict of not guilty to each count.

As Mr Birthisel left the court he was verbally abused by a member of the public.

He said the past few years had been "pretty bad" and he was glad it was all over.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-03-17/trent-christopher-birthisel-found-not-guilty-rape-mackay-court/7255208>