



**Hon Judy Spence MP**  
Member for Mt Gravatt



**Queensland  
Government**

**Minister for Police, Corrective Services  
and Sport**

Ref: 9779 F1 LT

05 NOV 2008

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 12 September 2008 in relation to Petition No. 1122-08 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly. The Petition requests the House to direct the Minister for Police to:

- review police numbers allocated to Dysart with the view to increasing the number of officers on a permanent basis, and
- ensure relief is provided for Dysart officers on leave at all times.

I referred this matter to the Queensland Police Service and am advised that Acting Inspector Michael Keys of Mackay Police District Office recently contacted the Principal Petitioner, Ms McDowall, regarding this matter and provided information to her on the allocation of policing resources.

Police regions and divisions are resourced in accordance with the Queensland Police Service Staffing Allocation Model which is used to determine police staffing allocations across the State. The Model is continually revised and updated on the basis of assessments of relative workloads and police staffing needs of all areas as identified through crime, population and traffic statistics, and various other service-delivery factors common to all communities.

The staffing model for Dysart is a two-officer station consisting of one Sergeant, one Senior Constable/Constable position and one fulltime Administrative Officer.

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Officers at one and two-officer stations within the Mackay District are responsible for planning their leave to ensure a coordinated police response is achievable in their absence. Any decision to provide relieving staff at one and two-officer stations is taken in accordance with Police Service policy and is based on community expectations, calls for service and officer safety.

At times when relief cannot be supplied, support from neighbouring police divisions is provided. Dysart Police are also supported by district resources such as the Tactical Crime Squad, Traffic Branch and Criminal Investigation Branches.

A recent review of 'calls for service' in the Dysart Police Division established there had been a slight reduction in calls for service and reported crime.

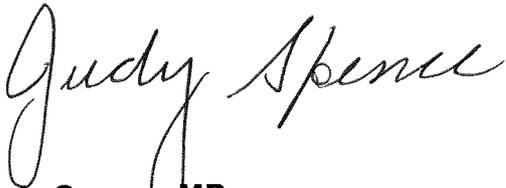
The Police Service advises there are no immediate plans to increase police staffing numbers at Dysart. However, due to ongoing developments in the Bowen coal basin, a review is currently being conducted of Mackay District policing.

Additionally, the Queensland Police Service is presently reviewing all one and two-officer stations throughout the State.

Acting Inspector Keys is available on telephone 0749683561 for any further assistance required.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Spence". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Judy Spence MP**

Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport