



**Queensland
Government**

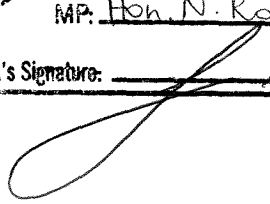
Our Ref: P/09/00982

QPS Ref: 6940 F31 LB

Office of the
**Minister for Police, Corrective Services
and Emergency Services**

27 NOV 2009

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

LAI	
UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE	
No.:	<u>5309T1533</u>
	02 DEC 2009
MP:	<u>Hon. N. Roberts</u> MP
Clerk's Signature:	

Dear Mr Laurie

I am writing to provide my response to petition number 1289-09 which was lodged by Mr Peter Dowling MP, Member of Redlands and received by the Legislative Assembly on 24 August 2009.

The petition seeks to draw the attention of the House to the request to provide a police presence on Coochiemudlo Island. The petitioners advise a police presence on the Island will enable the residents and visitors to have the same rights as all Australians to live without fear of violence.

I referred this matter to the Queensland Police Service and am advised that Senior Sergeant Steve Graham, Officer in Charge, Redland Bay Police Station, spoke to the principal petitioner, Miss Margarette Cheras, resident of Coochiemudlo Island, on 22 September 2009 to discuss her concerns. I understand Senior Sergeant Graham advised Miss Cheras that Coochiemudlo Island falls within the Redland Bay Police Division and as such, officers from the Redland Bay Police Station are responsible for the policing of Coochiemudlo Island.

The Bligh Government and the Police Service share the concerns of Miss Cheras and fellow petitioners about crime in our communities and are strongly committed to addressing this problem in order to provide a safe and secure environment for all persons and property in Queensland.

I am informed proactive and reactive strategies are being undertaken by the Queensland Police Service to appropriately respond to issues of concern including traffic, criminal and antisocial behaviour on Coochiemudlo Island. These strategies include intelligence-driven patrols and action plans formulated by officers of the Redland Bay Police Station.

The Officer in Charge, Redland Bay Station and the District Officer, Wynnum Police District, regularly assess the needs of Coochiemudlo and other islands to develop policing strategies accordingly. I am informed designated island patrols have been instigated and some of these patrols will be conducted in the evenings and on weekends. These patrols must also include the policing of islands other than Coochiemudlo Island.

Level 24 State Law Building
50 Ann Street Brisbane 4000
PO Box 15195 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3239 0199
Facsimile +61 7 3221 9985
Email police@ministerial.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158

The Redland Bay Police Station, operates 24-hours a day, seven days a week and is supported by Wynnum Police District support units including the Traffic Branch, Tactical Crime Squad, Crime Prevention Unit, Child Protection and Investigation Unit and the Criminal Investigation Branch. Further support is provided by the Wynnum Police District Water Police, who have recently upgraded their fleet and response capabilities from the Redland Bay station.

The Police Service advises the Redland Bay Station, within the Wynnum Police District, is resourced in accordance with the Queensland Police Service's 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 police advise there are no plans in the immediate future to establish a police station on Coochiemudlo Island. However, you may be assured the Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan South Police Region, will continue to assess staffing needs within the Region to ensure an effective and responsive policing service continues to be provided to the Coochiemudlo Island community.

The Bligh Government and Police Service are always endeavouring to improve service delivery. This Government has continued to increase police numbers each year. At November 2009, through the creation of an additional 200 new sworn police positions, the Police Service has more than 10 300 sworn officers. This more than meets this Government's commitment to maintain a police to population ratio equal to or better than the national average.

In 2009-10, our Government is investing a record \$1.706 billion to support the services of the Queensland Police Service. This will ensure more effective policing services to the community through the provision of 203 more police officers, new police facilities and equipment, better technology to fight crime, and improvements to road safety.

Coochiemudlo residents can be assured the Queensland Police Service is committed to implementing proactive strategies with a view to ensuring a safer community for all residents of Queensland. The Police Service is also committed to providing a timely response to their calls for service and investigating all reports of criminal and antisocial behaviour, ensuring appropriate action, including prosecution if applicable, is taken where sufficient evidence exists.

Senior Sergeant Graham is available on telephone 3829 4140 to respond to any further concerns that the petitioners may have.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Roberts', written in a cursive style.

Neil Roberts MP
**Minister for Police, Corrective Services
and Emergency Services**