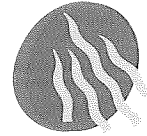




Honourable Neil Roberts MP
Member for Nudgee



**Queensland
Government**

Our Ref: P/09/00608

QPS Ref: 10607 F1 LT

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

- 8 OCT 2009

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I am writing to provide my response to petition number 1256-09 which was lodged by Mr Rob Messenger MP, Member for Burnett, and received by the Legislative Assembly on 17 June 2009.

The petition seeks the placement of a permanent police officer in residence at Burnett Heads.

I have received the following information from the Queensland Police Service on the issues raised in the petition.

Policing services to Burnett Heads are provided by the Bargara Police Division. General policing in the Burnett Heads area is enhanced by officers attached to other Bundaberg District units, including the Traffic Branch, Criminal Investigations Branch and Dog Squad. In addition, officers from the Bundaberg District Operations team and the Wide Bay Tactical Crime Squad are available to assist first response police at times when there is high demand for service. These specialist units also conduct operations targeting crime, drug and good order offences in the Burnett Heads area.

The number of police officers allocated to police divisions accords with the Queensland Police Service Staffing Allocation Model which is used for determining police staffing allocations across Queensland. 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.

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Regarding response times within the Bargara Police Division, the Queensland Police Service acknowledges this division receives high volumes of calls for service at times. All calls for police assistance must be prioritised to ensure life-endangering and other urgent matters receive the appropriate responses.

Therefore, although police endeavour to respond promptly to all reported incidents, response times vary according to the nature of the reported incident and operational requirements at the relevant time.

The Police Service is satisfied the current staffing level within the Bargara Police Division is sufficient for the area. However, I am advised staff numbers will continue to be monitored and revised as required to ensure an appropriate level of service is maintained.

Policing services across the State are also being enhanced as a result of the decision to implement an innovative policy, known as the Priority Policing Policy for first response policing in Queensland. The Priority Policing Policy provides an appropriate solution to urgent calls and spikes in calls for service by ensuring police are available to address a range of calls in the timeliest way possible.

In relation to police numbers in general, the Bligh Government has been and remains strongly committed to providing police with the resources they need to fight crime and improve community safety. Police numbers continue to be increased each year. By October 2009, through the creation of an additional 200 new sworn police positions, the Police Service will have more than 10 100 sworn officers. This will more than meet 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.

Superintendent Anne MacDonald, Bundaberg Police District Officer, is available on telephone 4153 9144 for any further assistance required.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Roberts', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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