



Minister for Police and
Minister for Corrective Services

Ref No: 2020/14750 LE

14/09/2020

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petitions 3396-20 and 3382-20 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 13 August 2020.

I acknowledge the concerns raised by the petitioners in the tabled petition about community safety in Chinchilla.

The Queensland Police Service, supported by the Palaszczuk Government, continues to implement targeted policing operations, proactive strategies and enhanced partnerships with key stakeholders to respond to the policing needs of the people who live and work in Chinchilla and surrounding areas in the South West Police District.

Community safety initiatives include the targeting of offenders through high visibility patrols, community engagement and proactive high visibility policing.

I can advise that police are actively targeting drugs, property crime and anti-social behaviour in and around Chinchilla.

Reducing youth crime requires a whole of community approach that includes parents, families and community leaders. This Government is committed to long term solutions. We are dedicated to working with community members to ensure that strategies for responding to young offenders address local issues and draw on community knowledge and strengths.

That is why the Palaszczuk Government has delivered record investment in youth justice reforms to reduce youth crime and reoffending.

This government has also delivered a record \$2.6 billion police budget – a 20 per cent increase since we came to government and with this budget there are more police in Queensland than ever before.

Further, this government brought in significant changes to the Youth Justice Act. As a result, police prosecutors are successfully launching appeals in cases where it is clear that bail should not have been granted. So far, there has been a 100% success rate.

The Queensland Police Service is undertaking targeted action to keep the community safe in the South West Police District, including Chinchilla, through proactive policing strategies, such as Operation Impede, that tackles drug and property crime. A recent operation resulted in 11 people being charged with 37 offences. Importantly, a significant amount of dangerous drugs were taken off the streets of Chinchilla and nearby areas.

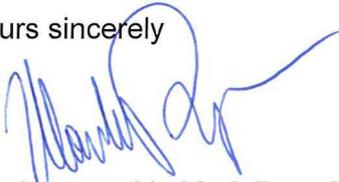
A number of community-based strategies have recently been implemented in Chinchilla , including a Community Consultative Group, to ensure that there is direct liaison between agencies and community members. A Juvenile High Risk Team has also been established to ensure government agencies work closely together on initiatives to keep the community safe.

I hope that this information has been helpful to the petitioners and has demonstrated that the Government is investing in the reforms that are needed to address community safety in Chinchilla and across Queensland.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to tackling crime, including youth crime and breaking the cycle of offending in the long term.

I thank the petitioners for bringing their concerns to the attention of the House.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Ryan', with a large loop at the end of the signature.

The Honourable Mark Ryan MP
**Minister for Police and
Minister for Corrective Services**