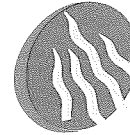




Hon Neil Roberts MP
Member for Nudgee



**Queensland
Government**

Our Ref: P/09/01445

QPS Ref: 10021 F12 TA

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

11 NOV 2009

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

Dear Mr Laurie,

I am writing to provide my response to petition number 1310-09 lodged by Mrs Rosemary Menkens MP, Member for Burdekin and received by the Legislative Assembly on 16 September 2009.

The petition relates to police resources and crime issues in the Home Hill area. It also contains issues regarding punishment and the enforcement of stronger laws, which fall within the responsibilities of the Honourable Cameron Dick MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations.

I referred this matter to the Queensland Police Service which has provided the following information on the policing issues raised in the petition.

The Home Hill Police Station, within the Townsville Police District, has a staffing strength of three police officers and one administration officer. Policing at Home Hill is supplemented by the 21 officers attached to Ayr Police Division, including two Traffic Branch officers and two designated detectives attending to criminal investigations. Local police are also supported by officers attached to the Clare, Giru and Townsville police divisions during special events or when otherwise required.

Further support to Home Hill Police is provided by Townsville Police District specialist units, including the Traffic Branch, Tactical Crime Unit, Crime Prevention Unit, Criminal Investigation Branch, Child Protection and Investigation Unit and Dog Squad.

I am advised the Home Hill Police Station is resourced in accordance with the Queensland Police Service's Staffing Allocation Model which is used to determine police staffing allocations across the State. Officers are allocated throughout the State in accordance with the needs and priorities identified by the Police Service, including to coastal islands and rural communities. 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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The Police Service is satisfied the current staffing level at Home Hill is sufficient for the area. However, the District Officer, Townsville District and the Operations Coordinator, Northern Police Region, will continue to monitor and evaluate the use of police resources within the area to ensure an effective and responsive policing service at Home Hill is maintained.

The Bligh Government is committed to ensuring police have the resources they need to fight crime and provide policing services to communities throughout Queensland. The Government continues to allocate the funding to increase the number of police officers each year. The Queensland Police Service's budget for 2009-10 is a record \$1.706 billion - an increase of \$133.9 million or 8.5 percent on the 2008-09 budget.

The 2009-10 budget also provides for the continuation of a key Government commitment to increase police numbers by 203 additional police positions, including 53 specialist traffic positions as part of the Government's road safety package. These extra 203 police positions are the first instalment in this Government's commitment to deliver 600 new police positions over three years.

By March 2012, there will be 10 600 police officers in Queensland committed to reducing crime and improving community safety. This will more than meet this Government's commitment to maintain a police to population ratio equal to or better than the national average.

Police numbers have also been boosted as a result of the Police Service's civilianisation strategy which has released officers for frontline policing to the community. The Police Service now employs over 300 staff members under the civilianisation program in roles such as watchhouse officers and counter and administrative support. As a result of this, additional front-line officers are available for deployment, and will continue to be allocated throughout the State in accordance with the needs and priorities identified by the Police Service.

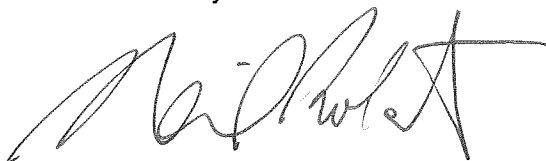
In respect to the provision of assistance to strengthen the community's capacity to prevent crime, the Police Service advises that the Divisional Inspector regularly attends meetings of the Burdekin Community Action Group Against Crime (the Action Group) to identify and discuss concerns raised regarding crime related issues in the Burdekin area. I understand a number of crime prevention booklets and pamphlets were distributed at a recent meeting of the Action Group. The Inspector engages in free and open communication on crime prevention issues.

Additionally, the Townsville District Crime Prevention Coordinator has been active within the Burdekin community promoting crime prevention strategies. An electronic Crime Bulletin has been commenced specifically for the Burdekin and is distributed bi-monthly.

Inspector Ian Haughton, Townsville Police District, is available on 4799 8962 to provide any further assistance you may require.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Roberts', with a stylized, flowing script.

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