



Hon Neil Roberts MP
Member for Nudgee



**Queensland
Government**

Ref: 11345 P1 LS

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

10 MAR 2010

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 11 February 2010 forwarding to me petition number 1369-10 lodged by Mr Howard Hobbs MP, Member for Warrego, and received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 10 February 2010.

The petition raises various traffic and safety issues which are of concern to the petitioners and seeks to have a police officer permanently appointed to Warra.

I referred this matter to the Queensland Police Service. The Police Service has advised that following the departure from Warra of the previous permanently appointed police officer in March 2009, the Service has endeavoured to replace the officer without success.

In this regard, policing needs and service delivery options for all Queensland communities are constantly reviewed and assessed to ensure an effective and responsive policing service is provided across the state.

The Police Service gives an assurance its ongoing commitment to keeping Warra and other local communities safe and secure will be paramount in considering the most effective service delivery model for the area.

Currently, an appropriate policing service is being provided to Warra by officers from the neighbouring divisions of Chinchilla, Dalby and Jandowae, through regular patrols and responses to calls for service. In addition, a police officer is currently residing in the Warra police house.

The petitioners may be interested to know the Dalby Police District, encompassing Warra, 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.

As at 1 February 2010, the Dalby Police District had an approved strength of 63 police officers.

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The Bligh Government and the Queensland Police Service have noted the petitioners' concerns about road safety issues impacting on Warra township, including an increase in heavy vehicles travelling on the Warrego Highway. The Police Service advises that the Warrego Highway is targeted through regular traffic patrols and operations by officers of the Toowoomba District Traffic Branch. Also, local police employ a range of road safety strategies in the area, including mobile and static radar and speed camera deployments.

Regarding the specific concerns raised about heavy vehicles, the police advise that officers of the State Traffic Task Force regularly conduct heavy vehicle traffic enforcement operations throughout Queensland. These operations are sometimes conducted jointly with regional police and members of other government departments.

Furthermore, offences involving heavy vehicles have been targeted by Queensland Police as part of an annual, national operation known as Operation Austrans - a commercial road freight compliance and enforcement initiative. In Queensland, Operation Austrans is a joint operation conducted by the Queensland Police and Queensland Transport targeting the heavy vehicle industry, with a focus on speeding, loading, fatigue and defective vehicles.

Toowoomba District police also work with stakeholders involved in the heavy vehicle industry to raise the level of awareness of safety issues including fatigue management and driver behaviour.

The Bligh Government continues to give the Police Service the resources it needs to maintain efforts to reduce the trauma on our roads. The Queensland Police Service's budget for 2009-10 is a record \$1.706 billion, which comprises \$47 million for road safety initiatives, including engaging specialist traffic officers, continuation of the fixed speed camera rollout, completion of the Digital Integrated Traffic Camera System and maintaining the current speed and red light camera operations and public education programs aimed at reducing road trauma.

There are nine fixed camera sites currently in operation across the state. As the petitioners may be aware, there are now two fixed speed cameras operational on the Warrego Highway at Redwood and Muirlea.

The Queensland Police Service will continue to provide a highly visible presence and carry out traffic enforcement on Queensland roads, including in the Warra area.

Inspector Anthony Brame, Dalby Police District, has attempted to contact the principal petitioner, Mr Stephen Rhodes of Warra, to discuss the matters raised in the petition. Unfortunately these attempts were unsuccessful. However, a message was left for Mr Rhodes to contact Inspector Brame on telephone 4669 9272 at his convenience.

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**