



Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Ref No: 13645 P2 JF

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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition number 2222-14 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 13 February 2014. The principal petitioner is Ms Cheryl Roxburgh of Osborne. The petition calls for an increase in police staffing numbers allocated to the Ayr and Home Hill Stations.

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) advise that policing within the Burdekin area is undertaken by officers from the Ayr, Home Hill, Giru and Clare Police Stations. Officers from these four divisions are generally responsible for attending and managing police-related issues within their respective divisions. Each of the stations is managed by an Officer in Charge who monitors all offences within their division and allocates resources appropriately. Officers from each of the divisions regularly undertake joint operations targeting crime, good order and traffic-related matters within the Burdekin area to address any identified increases in offending.

With regard to the Ayr and Home Hill Stations, the QPS staffing allocation model dictates the number of sworn officers at each station. Currently the Ayr Station has an approved strength of 18 officers, which includes the Officer in Charge and 17 general duties officers/shift supervisors. The Ayr Station is also supported by two Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB) officers, two Road Policing Command (RPC) officers, one Child Protection and Investigation Unit (CPIU) officer, one Scenes of Crime officer and two Police Liaison Officers. One of these 'support' positions, the only one not occupied as at 1 March 2014 was the CPIU position, which has recently been advertised in the QPS gazette. In addition, there is one position at a Youth Club in Ayr which is currently vacant, but is filled on a relieving basis.

The Home Hill Station has an approved strength of four officers, which includes the Officer in Charge and three general duties officers. All four positions are currently filled, however, recently one of these officers has been seconded to other policing activities within the Burdekin area. Both the Ayr and Home Hill Stations receive additional support from administrative staff. Additionally, officers from Townsville including the CIB, CPIU, Tactical Crime Squad and RPC staff travel to the Burdekin to assist local officers with specific tasks.

I have been advised that the staffing allocation for both Ayr and Home Hill Stations will be reviewed as part of the QPS annual planning and budgetary processes.

Northern Region Acting Assistant Commissioner Paul Taylor will continue to monitor the situation and will consider every opportunity to further support the Burdekin community in the provision of policing services.

The Newman Government is committed to revitalising front line policing by providing an additional 1,100 new police officers over four years. To date, the Government has delivered over 600 additional officers who have been allocated throughout the State to areas of critical need. This increase in frontline police will enable the QPS to commit more officers to proactive policing tasks.

In addition, members of the Burdekin community are reminded that any time they wish to report a non-urgent crime or incident or for general police enquiries they should call Policelink on telephone 131 444 or alternatively via the Policelink@police.qld.gov.au online services and the Policelink mobile application. However, if a crime is occurring at the time or there is a life-threatening situation or suspected offenders in the area, triple 000 should be called immediately.

Public information received through these channels is forwarded for intelligence and investigation purposes. Some examples of the type of non-urgent incidents include wilful damage to property, stealing offences, break and enter offences, stolen vehicles and lost property. It is worth noting that generally the rate of offending with regard to break and enter offences across the Ayr and Home Hill policing divisions is decreasing as indicated in the table below.

OFFENCE TYPE	2011	2012	2013	2014
BURGLARY	118	103	84	14
BREAK AND ENTER (SHOPS)	9	8	7	0
BREAK AND ENTER (PREMISES)	34	46	54	8

Should Ms Roxburgh and the petitioners have any further enquiries, Inspector Glenn Doyle, Southern Patrol Group, Townsville District, is available on telephone (07) 4799 8962.

In relation to the reference in the petition to the strengthening of penalties for break and enter offences, as this matter falls within the responsibilities of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of this correspondence to the Honourable Jarrod Bleijie MP, for his consideration.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Jack Dempsey MP

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

CC: The Honourable Jarrod Bleijie MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice