



Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

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15/07/2021

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter dated 17 June 2021 about petition number 3522-21.

Community safety is a priority for the Queensland Government and we continue to invest in comprehensive, long term strategies and programs to prevent, disrupt and respond to crime.

Regarding the petitioners' request, I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that more police personnel and police resources have already been deployed to the Gold Coast Police District this year and more will be deployed in future years under the Queensland Government's historic boost to the QPS.

The Government's investment in the QPS means that an additional 2,025 police personnel will be deployed over five years with at least 150 police officers being deployed to the South Eastern Police Region, which includes the Gold Coast.

Under this government, there are more police officers on the Gold Coast than ever before, and as a result of this historic boost, more are on the way.

This government is also providing frontline officers with additional police resources, namely, more QLITE ipads, body worn video cameras, extra police vehicles and in a first for Queensland – new, integrated load-bearing ballistic vests.

This government has already delivered a major new \$11 million police hub at Arundel and a new \$6 million police facility at Pimpama will be operational in early 2022.

This Government's Five Point Action Plan and \$550 million investment in community safety has achieved positive results so far, with figures showing the number of youth offenders is at its lowest level in a decade – around 30 percent. And while this data is encouraging, it also shows there is a cohort of hard-core, recidivist youth offenders who are causing real and significant harm in the community.

We know more work is needed to address this 10 percent cohort of recidivist youth offenders who accounted for 48 percent of all youth offending. We want to build on the success of the Five Point Action Plan with new strategies and tougher laws to target this cohort.

When it comes to targeting criminal offending, everyone, including the government, is on the same page: we all want a safer community; and we all want offenders held to account for the crimes that they commit.

This government recently passed new legislation that means offending while on bail is an aggravating circumstance when the court is imposing a sentence, and that community safety must come first in relation to recidivist high risk youth offenders.

We are also funding a 12-month trial with police using metal detecting wands in the Safe Night Precincts of Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach to target knife crime.

This Government is also delivering new high-tech cameras, including an expanded fleet of drones to target hooning on the Gold Coast. This new technology will add to the existing network of traffic cameras on the Gold Coast and make it much easier for police to catch hoons and take strong action against them. New, high-tech night vision capable cameras can be deployed covertly, operated by an officer, or deployed on a drone.

Complementing the new camera technology, this Government has toughened existing laws, including shifting the onus of proof onto the vehicle owner, which means, if the owner claims they were not driving the vehicle at the time of the offence, it will be up to them to prove it.

Putting the onus on the owner will allow police to take greater advantage of the hooning footage captured by CCTV cameras and provide police with enhanced flexibility when dealing with gatherings of hoons.

These tough new tactics will complement what are already the harshest hoon penalties in the nation and will add to the arsenal of enforcement measures being used by police to target hooning on the Gold Coast road network, which includes:

- Intelligence-driven enforcement with covert patrols
- Monitoring of all forms of social media to take swift action
- Hoon Hotline 13HOON
- High-visibility patrols
- Dedicated Road Policing officers
- POLAIR aerial surveillance
- Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology
- Road safety camera trailers
- Thousands of traffic cameras across the state
- Police drone fleet

Operation Tango Vinyl is an ongoing policing operation that targets hooning behaviour on the Gold Coast and I am advised by the QPS that these proactive tactics are achieving positive results.

This Government works closely with the QPS to ensure frontline officers have the resources they need to do what they do best, and that is, to keep the community safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Ryan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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