MR SHINE asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services (MR ROBERTS)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister indicate the nature and extent of police beats (including city beats) in my electorate and advise the manner in which they provide assistance to the communities in the electorate of Toowoomba North?

ANSWER:

The Police Beat Shopfronts Program was launched in 1992 and is an initiative aimed at providing the people of Queensland with an effective policing presence in shopping centres and central business districts.

The Neighbourhood Police Beat Program commenced in 1993 and is a Government funded policing initiative aimed at providing the people of Queensland with an effective policing presence in urban situations.

There are two Police Beat Shopfronts and four Neighbourhood Police Beats within the Toowoomba North electorate.

The Police Beat Shopfronts are the City Police Beat Shopfront located at the Grand Central Shopping Centre and the Wilsonton Police Beat Shopfront at the Wilsonton Shopping Centre.

The Neighbourhood Police Beats are the East, Harlaxton, Highfields and Newtown Neighbourhood Police Beats.

The Neighbourhood Police Beat and Police Beat Shopfront programs share many of the same fundamental objectives despite the fact that each program has been developed to service different policing requirements. Police Beat Shopfront officers apply beat policing concepts within shopping precincts. Neighbourhood Police Beat officers apply the same concepts within a broader community, normally in a residential context.

The success of these programs to date has been demonstrated by the high community acceptance of Police Beats and the expressed desire of communities to have more of this service in their immediate area. Evidence has also revealed that police officers involved in these programs are generally achieving a high degree of satisfaction in performing their duties, and are performing their duties effectively, efficiently and in line with their sworn oath of office.

The focus of Police Beat officers is to develop solutions to local problems. The officer may do this by monitoring calls for service and working with agencies and the local community. The calls for service for Police Beats can be unique to an area and diverse depending on the beat area. The Police Beat officer’s role is also to increase police-community
interaction, information flow, community satisfaction with the police and the community’s sense of safety.

Police Beat officers perform not only operational police duties but are also proactive in their designated Police Beat areas. They support their local communities by providing services or advice on topics such as:

- business and home security assessments;
- foot and vehicle patrols of shopping areas and streets;
- personal safety;
- presentations at schools on issues such as road safety and schoolies;
- victims support;
- calls for service follow up; and
- attendance at local community and business meetings and school activities.

The work of Police Beat officers mainly involves being out and about, mixing with members of the local community, hearing and responding to their concerns, and generally providing an enhanced visible policing presence within the local area.

The Bligh Government is strongly committed to the concept of police beats as it promotes cooperation between local police, businesses and the community in seeking to prevent crime.

Further information about the Queensland Police Service’s Police Beat Shopfront and Neighbourhood Police Beat programs can be found at the following internet site: