

9 January 2003

Mrs Patricia Burger  
1 Mangaroon Court  
SHAILER PARK QLD 4128

Dear Mrs Burger

I refer to a petition calling for the retention of the Police Beat Shopfront at Arndale Shopping Centre, Springwood (the Shopfront), which was tabled in the Queensland Parliament on 6 November 2002, by Ms Barbara Stone MP, Member for Springwood.

The Shopfront was permanently closed on 25 October 2002 and replaced by a Neighbourhood Police Beat at 364 Springwood Road, Springwood.

The decision to relocate the Shopfront was made in the interests of providing a more accessible and efficient policing service to the Springwood community. The fact that the Shopfront fielded significantly fewer public inquiries than its counterparts across the State indeed supports the view that the new Neighbourhood Police Beat will better serve community needs.

As you may be aware, Beat Police patrol a defined local area or beat. This initiative increases community access to policing services, strengthens partnerships between the community and police, and facilitates a problem solving approach to local problems. The new Springwood Neighbourhood Police Beat (the Police Beat) will also be available for longer hours than previously provided by the Shopfront.

I am sure you and your fellow petitioners will also be pleased to learn that police intelligence does not support the assertion that thefts and shoplifting will increase at Arndale Shopping Centre now that the Shopfront has been relocated.

A stringent media and marketing plan has been implemented to advise the public of the location of the new Police Beat, and telephone numbers for the former Shopfront have been retained by the Police Beat to ensure a smooth transition to the new arrangements. Importantly, might I also point out that the Police Beat is also accessible by public transport.

An added advantage of the new Police Beat is the allocation of a marked police vehicle for use by the two permanent full-time officers. The allocation of this vehicle will enable the Beat Officers to have greater access to the community and enable the facilitation of policing services that were not always possible at the Shopfront. The officers will primarily spend their time out on the streets, patrolling the area and providing a visible police presence.

Beat Officers will be targeting offences against the person, property offences including break and enters of homes and businesses, stealing from motor vehicles and unlawful use of motor vehicles.

The Springwood Police Beat area of responsibility is just under five square kilometres bordered on the west by the Pacific Motorway, on the south by Chatswood Road, east to Daisy Hill Road and along the boundary of Daisy Hill State Forest. This area of responsibility includes both the Arndale and Springwood Mall shopping complexes and you may be assured that the Beat Officers will maintain contact with management and retailers as well as performing patrols of these shopping centres.

The Police Beat was established at a cost of \$87,000.00. The Beattie Government believes in improving policing to make our communities safer, and we are doing just that. Beats and shopfronts are just one vital part of this. As evidence of this commitment, in the 2002-2003 State Budget the Beattie Government increased its funding to the Queensland Police Service by 6.8% resulting in a record operating budget of \$917 million. Overall the Queensland Police Service's operating budget has increased by \$47 million when compared to the 2001-2002 Budget, which itself delivered record increases.

Funding provided in this Budget will support the implementation of a number of election commitments and allow for the further expansion of the Queensland Police Service as part of the Beattie Government's undertaking to increase police numbers to 9,100 by 2005. The planned net growth in police numbers through to the year 2005 will result in average annual increases of more than 300 police officers.

I am confident that the improved policing services provided by the new Springwood Police Beat will quickly become evident and I would urge all local residents to give this initiative their full support.

I trust this information is of assistance to you and your fellow petitioners.

Yours sincerely

**TONY McGRADY**  
**Minister for Police and Corrective Services**  
**and Minister Assisting the Premier on the**  
**Carpentaria Minerals Province**

Ref: 132 F3 TB  
P/02/05864