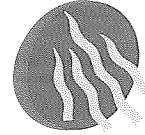




Honourable Neil Roberts MP
Member for Nudgee



Queensland
Government

Ref: 8059 F29 LT

Minister for Police, Corrective Services
and Emergency Services

23 JUL 2009

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I am writing to provide my response to petition number 1216-09 which was lodged by Mrs Jann Stuckey MP, Member for Currumbin and received by the Legislative Assembly on 23 April 2009.

The petition seeks to draw the attention of the House to the need for a police beat to be located within the Pines Shopping Centre at Elanora on the Gold Coast. The petitioners advise recent unruly youth behaviour and assaults on staff and bystanders requires urgent action before the situation gets out of control and people are seriously hurt. I have received the following information from the Queensland Police Service on the issues raised in the petition.

The Police Service has a strong commitment to policing the Palm Beach/Elanora area. In addition to officers stationed at the Palm Beach Police Station, the Elanora Police Beat is located at 194 K P McGrath Drive, Elanora, in close proximity to the Pines Shopping Centre.

Proactive strategies have been instigated by senior Gold Coast police managers to address unruly youth behaviour within the Gold Coast, and in particular, in the southern areas of the Gold Coast including Palm Beach and Elanora.

These initiatives include the Pines Safety Meeting, a strategy implemented by the Elanora Police Beat. Police meet on a fortnightly basis with the Pines Shopping Centre Management, security, staff and store representatives to discuss any incidents occurring at the centre. This has been successful in enabling police to address issues by tasking patrols and targeting particular offenders as a result of intelligence gained. This initiative is ongoing, and the Elanora Police Beat maintains regular contact with centre management. As at 11 May 2009, this policing partnership has contributed to a decrease in incidents of unruly youth behaviour.

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Additionally, the Elanora Police Beat has initiated a partnership with the Pines Shopping Centre Management for the use of a booth staffed by police and 'Volunteers in Policing' on a part-time basis. This will not only provide a policing presence within the centre, but a contact point to distribute crime prevention materials, promote Neighbourhood Watch and the Community Consultative Committee meetings. The booth will be located centrally within the shopping centre to ensure high visibility to the community. This visibility will be assisted by the display of official Queensland Police Service posters and crime prevention information.

The Gold Coast Police District is also undertaking a program involving school-based police officers educating local youth in the area of social responsibility. Officers attached to the Palm Beach Police Station and the Elanora Police Beat are active in this program.

A review of local policing arrangements failed to identify a need to modify current policing service delivery to the Pines Shopping Centre. Notwithstanding this outcome, police managers remain committed to investigating all complaints of criminal and antisocial behaviour and ensuring that appropriate action, including prosecution if applicable, is taken where sufficient evidence exists.

Acting Senior Sergeant Lars Roberts, Officer in Charge of the Palm Beach Police Station is available on telephone 5534 0222 for any further assistance required.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Roberts', written in a cursive style.

Neil Roberts MP
**Minister for Police, Corrective Services
and Emergency Services**