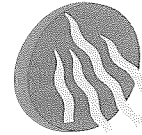




Hon Neil Roberts MP
Member for Nudgee



Queensland
Government

Ref: 10759 P2 LS

Minister for Police, Corrective Services
and Emergency Services

23 APR 2010

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 24 March 2010 forwarding to me petition number 1403-10 lodged by Mr Jason O'Brien MP, Member for Cook, and received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 23 March 2010.

The petition seeks an increase in police numbers at Mossman to address breaking and entering offences in Front Street, Mossman and additional police accommodation for the extra officers sought.

I referred this matter to the Queensland Police Service. Police advise in regard to the concerns raised about breaking and entering offences in Front Street, Mossman, that a recent increase in these offences was found to be largely attributable to a small group of young offenders who have now been apprehended by police.

The Police Service wishes to assure Mossman residents it is committed to investigating all reports of criminal activity and ensuring appropriate action, including prosecution if applicable, is taken where sufficient evidence exists.

The Police Service also encourages proactive and preventative strategies to deter criminal and antisocial behaviour. The BizSafe program is one such crime prevention strategy introduced by the Queensland Police Service to assist businesses in reducing the risk of crime. BizSafe was launched in Mossman in March 2010. It involves police meeting regularly with business owners, conducting information sessions, inspecting businesses' security systems and providing advice on enhancements to those systems where necessary. Police advise the BizSafe program, in conjunction with police actions, has positively impacted on crime in Mossman.

Further information relating to the BizSafe program can be accessed at:

<http://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/crimePrevention/bizSafe.htm>

Alternatively, contact may be made with the Cairns Police District Crime Prevention Coordinator, via the Mossman Police Station on telephone 4098 2177, to find out more about the BizSafe program and other community safety and crime prevention initiatives implemented by the Police Service.

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The Bligh Government is strongly committed to ensuring the safety of Queenslanders and their property with the provision of adequate resources, including staff, for the Queensland Police Service. This Government has committed to providing 600 new police positions this term to achieve a target of more than 10 600 police by March 2012.

This commitment is further evidenced by the significant increase in police numbers under successive Labor governments. In 1998, Queensland had just 6 800 police across the whole State. As a result of strong commitment to law and order, there are now more than 10 400 police serving the people of Queensland and protecting the Queensland lifestyle by maintaining safe and secure communities. This is an increase of 53 per cent – more than 3 600 officers.

Police advise that Mossman Police Station, within the Cairns Police District, is resourced in accordance with the Police Service Staffing Allocation Model, which is used for determining police numbers across the state. The Model is continually revised and updated on the basis of assessments of relative workloads and police staffing needs of all areas as identified through crime, population and traffic statistics, and various other service-delivery factors common to all communities.

I am advised the Cairns Police District had an approved staffing strength of 489 police officers as at 1 April 2010.

Local police apply considerable effort and resources to addressing crime in Mossman. Current police staffing at Mossman effectively allows a two-shift roster seven days a week. Where a police response is required outside of these shifts, overnight staff are recalled to duty. Where intelligence identifies a trend in offences or antisocial behaviour, assistance is available through the deployment of officers from Cairns Police District units, including the Criminal Investigation Branch, Child Protection and Investigation Unit, Tactical Crime Squad and Crime Prevention Unit.

Police are satisfied the existing resources at Mossman are adequate to ensure an effective and responsive policing service is provided to the community. Nevertheless, the petitioners may be assured the staffing allocation will continue to be regularly reviewed as part of the Police Service's annual planning and budgetary processes.

Regarding the petitioner's request for additional police accommodation in Mossman, police advise that adequate accommodation already exists in Mossman in the form of five police residences and barracks accommodation. All residences are currently occupied and two barracks are vacant. There is, therefore, no current intention by the Police Service to provide any additional accommodation in Mossman for police.

Acting Inspector Simone Carter, Far Northern Police Region, is available on telephone on 4030 7070 for any further assistance required.

Yours sincerely



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