



Hon Neil Roberts MP
Member for Nudgee



**Queensland
Government**

**Minister for Police, Corrective Services
and Emergency Services**

Ref: 11715 P1 LS

14 JUL 2010

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition number 1470-10 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 9 June 2010 by Dr Alexander Douglas MP, Member for Gaven.

The petition seeks to draw the attention of the House to antisocial and unruly behaviour in some areas of Highland Park on the Gold Coast and seeks additional police attention to these issues. The petitioners also support the installation of an electrified gate at the entrance to Chevron Rise, a cul-de-sac in Highland Park.

I referred this matter to the Queensland Police Service which advises Senior Sergeant Peter Gordon, Officer in Charge, Nerang Police Station, has been in regular contact, including personal contact with the principal petitioner, Mr Len Burgess, regarding the issues outlined. Senior Sergeant Gordon also attended a public meeting on 29 May 2010 where he addressed the concerns of some 50 local residents. The Senior Sergeant gave an assurance the Police Service is committed to taking all possible action aimed at ensuring the personal safety and property security of local residents.

Highland Park is within the Nerang Police Division, Coomera Police District. In response to residents' concerns, increased policing of Highland Park, including Chevron Rise, has been undertaken by Nerang police and members of the Coomera District Criminal Investigation Branch, Traffic Branch and Dog Squad. Police also advise a dedicated operation codenamed 'Coastal View' has been conducted over the past seven months as part of ongoing police efforts to detect and deter the antisocial and unruly behaviour of concern to Chevron Rise and other Highland Park residents. I am advised Nerang police have liaised with Dr Douglas and the Gold Coast City Council regarding this operation, which has involved increased policing through extensive police patrols of the area, aimed at ensuring an effective and responsive policing service is provided to the community.

I am informed Mr Burgess has expressed appreciation to Senior Sergeant Gordon for the police efforts being applied to address the issues raised in the petition.

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The Bligh Government and the Queensland Police Service share the residents' concerns about antisocial and unruly behaviour in our communities. The Government continues to inject record amounts of funding into policing in Queensland. In 2010-11, this Government has provided the Police Service with \$1.816 billion to fight crime and help keep Queensland safe. This is an increase of \$110 million, or 6.5 percent, over the 2009-10 budget, which was also a record allocation. This funding will provide more effective policing services to the community through additional police officers, new police facilities and equipment and better technology to fight crime.

The Government has also continued to increase police numbers each year. In 2010-11, funding has been delivered for 203 additional police positions as part of a three-year Government commitment to deliver 600 additional police officers by March 2012. This will see 10 600 police in Queensland by 2012, which more than meets this Government's commitment to maintain a police to population ratio at or above the national average.

As part of the Government's strong commitment to law and order and protecting Queenslanders, the new Coomera Police District commenced operations on 1 October 2009. I am informed the Coomera Police District is resourced in accordance with the Queensland Police Service's Staffing Allocation Model used to determine police staffing allocations across the state. The Model is continually revised and updated on the basis of assessments of relative workloads and police staffing needs, as identified through crime, population and traffic statistics, and various other service-delivery factors common to all communities.

Coomera Police District had an approved staffing strength of 172 police officers as at 1 June 2010. The Police Service advises this strength provides adequate coverage for the communities comprising the district, including Highland Park.

The Queensland Police Service is committed to investigating all complaints of criminal and/or antisocial behaviour and ensuring that, where sufficient evidence exists, appropriate enforcement action is taken against offenders.

Senior Sergeant Gordon is available on telephone 5503 8911 should any further assistance or advice on policing issues be required by Highland Park residents.

The matter of the request for an electrified gate for Chevron Rise is a local government issue and I understand Mr Burgess has advised negotiations with the Gold Coast City Council are continuing in regard to that issue.

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**