

Mr B Pritchard
11 Wanda Street
LOGAN CENTRAL QLD 4114

Dear Mr Pritchard

I refer to the petition from you and other persons, which was registered with the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 20 August 2003, regarding the relocation of the Logan Central Police Shopfront to a four person Police Beat at Ellen Street, Kingston.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for expressing your views and participating in an open debate on this issue.

I have raised your concerns with the Assistant Commissioner of Police, South Eastern Region, who advises that an extensive period of consultation was undertaken to identify the local needs of the Woodridge community through the community consultation process conducted as part of the Queensland Government's Crime Prevention Strategy – Building Safer Communities. This consultation resulted in the development of a Woodridge Community Action Plan and a Kingston Community Action Plan. These plans are specific to the needs of these local communities.

The Assistant Commissioner advises that whilst the Kingston Plan refers to the need for additional resources for policing and community safety initiatives, the Woodridge Plan states *inter alia* - *The Queensland Police Service is to identify and implement strategies to improve the relationship with and responsiveness to Woodridge residents' needs including converting the Logan Central Plaza Shopfront to a Police Beat* (Initiative 3.1).

In a recent evaluation into beat policing in Queensland several surveys were conducted in conjunction with interviews with police officers and community members. The evaluation indicates that police beats are considered effective in addressing crime and disorder problems and that the public are very satisfied with, and supportive of, police beats.

In your petition you refer to the effect the Police Shopfront has had on reducing the level of crime. It is worthy to note that the evaluation found neighbourhood police beats are associated with decreases in overall crime and property offences to a greater degree than Police Beat Shopfronts. The proactive policing initiatives carried out by beat officers based in the community were also found to have a positive impact on calls for service and on reducing chronic repeat calls.

Regarding the operation of the proposed police beat, the Assistant Commissioner advises that the hours of operation of any police beat are determined by the Officer in Charge based on an analysis of calls for service, police intelligence and the needs of the local community. There is also a focus on providing a high profile police presence within the community and on conducting proactive policing strategies. The Assistant Commissioner assures me that police seek to have all police beats operating when they are most needed, based on the factors previously listed.

Regarding your concerns about the impact of the relocation of the Logan Central Police Shopfront on police response times, the Assistant Commissioner advises that senior police within Logan District constantly monitor the police response to calls for service throughout the District in order to maximise all available police resources. The Assistant Commissioner wishes to assure you that policing services provided to Logan Central Plaza and surrounding areas will continue to be monitored in order to maintain an effective level of service delivery.

The Queensland Police Service is committed to providing policing services which best suit local needs. Accordingly, police beats are established specifically to meet the local needs of the communities in which they will operate.

The Assistant Commissioner points out that the proposed police beat is intended to be staffed by four officers, which will enable police to conduct extended patrols and improve their capacity to respond to calls for service. The Assistant Commissioner also points out that officers stationed at the police beat will enhance the policing presence in the designated beat area, which includes Logan Central Plaza shopping centre.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

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

Ref: 2585 F4 KW
P/03/04165