



Minister for Police and Corrective Services and
Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

Ref No: 2021/21590 MC

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3611-21.

At the outset, I can assure you that the Palaszczuk Government is committed to protecting the safety and wellbeing of Queenslanders. The continued low rates of community transmission of COVID-19 and high rates of vaccination in Queensland are proof of the effectiveness of the public health measures introduced by the Chief Health Officer and associated compliance activities.

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that all police officers and many QPS staff members have been appointed as emergency officers (general) under the *Public Health Act 2005*, to assist the Chief Health Officer in stopping the spread and impacts of COVID-19 in Queensland.

This has enabled the QPS to support Queensland Health in undertaking a range of compliance activities surrounding the Chief Health Officer's public health directions, including border control activities at Queensland's airports and road borders, as well as issuing quarantine direction notices and providing security overlay at government-nominated quarantine facilities.

The QPS has advised that throughout the entirety of the COVID-19 public health emergency, police have taken an educative approach in promoting community compliance with public health measures. Police have acted compassionately and with discretion to help the community understand and fulfil its obligations under the public health directions. Compliance and enforcement activities have been carried out where appropriate and necessary to ensure community safety.

The use of Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel is a matter for the Commonwealth Government.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Ryan'.

The Honourable Mark Ryan MP
**Minister for Police and Corrective Services and
Minister for Fire and Emergency Services**