

Ref: 2100 F9 SD

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

Dear Neil

I refer to the petition to members of the Queensland Legislative Assembly regarding police resources in the Caboolture area.

I have requested information from the police in relation to the issues raised in the petition. I am advised that the Caboolture Police Division is resourced in accordance with the Police Service's Staffing Allocation Model which is 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 of all areas as identified through crime, population and traffic statistics, and various other service delivery factors common to all communities. In this regard, staffing in the Caboolture Police Division remains under continual review to ensure an appropriate level of service is provided at all times.

I am further advised that the Caboolture Police Division includes Caboolture Police Station and the following Police Beats: Tullawong Community Police Residential Beat; Beachmere Community Police Residential Beat; and Morayfield Police Shopfront at Morayfield Shopping Centre. Caboolture Police Station operates a 24-hour counter service and generally staffing numbers allow for two patrol cars per shift with a crew of two officers per patrol car. Where intelligence indicates a need for deploying additional resources, rostering arrangements are modified accordingly.

I am also advised that the approved strength for general duties officers for the Caboolture Police Division has increased from 35 as at 1 July 1998 to 64 as at 1 March 2005. The approved strength of 64 includes an increase of six positions created from the 2004 District Resource Plan, and includes the positions of:

- One Senior Sergeant (Officer in Charge Watchhouse);
- One Sergeant, Watchhouse Supervisor;
- Three Senior Constable / Constable general duties; and
- One Senior Constable, District Intelligence Officer located at Caboolture.

In addition, an extra position has been created in the Redcliffe District Juvenile Aid Bureau. This position has boosted the Bureau's capacity to undertake child protection investigations within the Caboolture, Bribie Island and Woodford Police Divisions.

Caboolture Police Division also receives policing services from officers attached to various Redcliffe Police District units including the Criminal Investigation Branch, Juvenile Aid Bureau, Tactical Crime Squad, Traffic Branch, Dog Squad and Scenes of Crime unit. Some police officers from these specialist district functions are accommodated at Caboolture Police Station, including:

- Eight officers from the Redcliffe District Criminal Investigation Branch;
- Seven officers from the Redcliffe District Juvenile Aid Bureau;
- Two officers from the Redcliffe District Prosecutions Corps;
- One District Crime Prevention Coordinator; and
- One Police Liaison Officer.

Residents in the Caboolture area will also benefit from this Government decision to establish a Neighbourhood Police Beat at Burpengary. It is proposed that this Police Beat will be a two-officer establishment. Staff from the Police Service's Property and Facilities Branch and Crime Prevention Unit have identified a suitable residence which is currently being refurbished.

I have also approved expenditure of \$1.5 million for the refurbishment of Caboolture Police Station. The refurbishment will include all areas within the Station, including the front foyer, Officer in Charge office, constable's day room, conference room, meal room, detectives' offices, Inspector's office, property office, watchhouse, locker room and toilet amenities. Work is proceeding on this refurbishment.

The Beattie Government is strongly committed to increasing police numbers and supporting the Queensland Police Service. The 2004-05 State Budget provided a record investment in policing of more than \$1 billion.

Since coming to office we have increased the number of extra police officers by about 300 each year. That has meant training about 600 recruits each year which takes into account the rate of attrition of police officers. We are on target to exceed our goal of 9150 Queensland police officers by September 2005. After achieving this, we will continue to maintain police numbers above the national average of the police to population ratio.

Further, I have asked the Police Commissioner to investigate the possibility of establishing a stand-alone Police District at Caboolture, and he informs me the service is currently investigating this matter.

Inspector Ian Limbach of Caboolture Police Station is available on telephone 5495 0410 to assist with any further enquiries in relation to this matter.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Judy Spence MP
Minister for Police and Corrective Services