

Ref: 5696 F1 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, from a number of citizens, requesting the establishment of a police station in the Ashmore/Benowa area.

The construction of the new multi-million dollar police station at Southport will substantially boost policing services throughout the northern Gold Coast area, including Ashmore and Benowa. Tenders for the new station have now closed and building is expected to commence shortly and be completed by May 2006.

The station will incorporate interview rooms, major incident room and accommodation for a major 24-hour policing establishment. This new facility will provide an improved platform for the future delivery of policing services in the Ashmore/Benowa area.

The Gold Coast Police District has also gained increased staffing levels commensurate with population growth, urban development and increases in calls for service. Staffing levels for the District have been boosted from an approved strength of 503 on 1 July 1998 to 662 as of 1 June 2005, an increase of 159 positions.

The new station at Southport will enable the Service to maintain effective policing services within the area in future years.

Acting Inspector Owen Elloy of the Gold Coast Police District is available on telephone 5571 4240 to assist with enquiries concerning this matter.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Judy Spence MP
Minister for Police and Corrective Services