



Queensland  
Government

Ref: 7226 F1 JS



Office of the  
**Minister for  
Police and Corrective Services**

28 JUL 2006

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Cnr Alice and George Streets  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I am writing to provide my response to petition number 631-06 which was lodged by Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP, Member for Surfers Paradise and received by the Legislative Assembly on 9 May 2006.

The petition seeks an increase in police numbers at Surfers Paradise Police Station.

I referred this matter to the Queensland Police Service and am advised that the serious incident referred to in the petition was the subject of a *Gold Coast Bulletin* article published on 11 March 2006. This incident occurred at 5.36 am on 7 March 2006 at Helensvale. Two local police officers attended the address in question and were confronted by an aggressive offender. The officers then contacted the Police Communications Centre and requested operational support. At 5.48 am the two officers succeeded in restraining the offender on the ground. Additional police arrived at the scene at 5.57 am.

With respect to police numbers at Surfers Paradise, I am advised that the Police Service has taken steps to increase the police staffing allocation for the Surfers Paradise Police Division. Over the past eight months the approved allocation for the Division has been increased from 91 to 100 police positions.

I am further advised that rostering practices within the Division are intelligence-based in order to maximise the effectiveness of the policing service provided to the community. Accordingly, additional officers are rostered for duty during peak periods, including evenings and weekends. Senior police managers continually review rostering practices in the Division in the interests of providing the best possible policing service to the community and maintaining officer safety.

I am also advised that the staffing situation at Surfers Paradise Station will continue to be monitored and revised as part of the Police Service's annual planning processes to ensure an appropriate level of service is maintained.

Acting Inspector Dave Isherwood of the Gold Coast Police District is available on telephone 5570 7833 to assist with any enquiries concerning policing issues in Surfers Paradise.

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I can assure you that this Government has been and remains strongly committed to increasing police numbers and supporting the Queensland Police Service. The 2006-07 State Budget provides a record \$1.3 billion operating budget for the Queensland Police Service, an increase of \$121.9 million or 10.3 % from the previous budget which was also a record allocation.

Since this Government was elected in 1998 we have increased police numbers by approximately 300 each year and has succeeded in raising Queensland's police to population ratio to better than the national average. This Government will continue to maintain police numbers at or above the national average of the police to population ratio. The 2006-07 State Budget provides for an extra 350 front-line, first response general duties police officers.

As a result of this commitment to boosting police numbers, the number of police officers in the Queensland Police Service will increase to 9728 officers by September 2007 - an increase of almost 3000 police officers since this Government came to office.

As the additional front-line, first response general duties police officers resulting from these commitments progressively become available for deployment, they will continue to be allocated throughout the State in accordance with the needs and priorities identified by the Queensland Police Service.

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I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

  
**Judy Spence MP**  
Minister for Police and Corrective Services