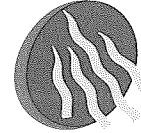




**Hon Judy Spence MP**  
Member for Mt Gravatt

LAI'D UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE	
No.:	5208 / 3425
Date:	7 May 2008
MP:	Hon J Spence
Clerk's Signature:	



**Queensland  
Government**

**Minister for Police, Corrective Services  
and Sport**

Ref: 3030 F18 LT

30 APR 2008

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I am writing to provide my response to petition number 934-07 which was lodged by Councillor Dawn Crichlow, Gold Coast City Council, and received by the Legislative Assembly on 30 October 2007. This petition was forwarded to me from the Minister for Emergency Services.

The petition seeks the purchase of a helicopter, to be stationed at the Gold Coast, for the exclusive use of the Queensland Police Service.

I referred this matter to the Queensland Police Service which has provided the following information in response to this issue.

The Police Service is able to access helicopters for searches and to assist with urgent police responsibilities from community helicopter providers and Queensland Government Helicopter Rescue Services funded by the Department of Emergency Services. The Police Service also accesses other helicopters on a user-pays basis.

A number of funding models and methods are used within Australian jurisdictions to provide police services with access to helicopters. The purposes for which such helicopters are used are very similar and include search and rescue, operational deployment of personnel, criminal searches, surveillance, forensic photography and vehicle pursuits.

Other Australian jurisdictions are satisfied with helicopter performance and continue to use them for the above purposes. They caution, however, that vehicle pursuits are usually aborted before a helicopter arrives. They also advise the same helicopters are used in non-policing roles, including aero-medical evacuation, search and rescue, and rural fires.

To be effective in a metropolitan area such as the Gold Coast would necessitate the use of several helicopters and crews. This would involve significant costs and complexities and in the view of police, make the use of helicopters for pursuit and other police-specific activities operationally unviable.

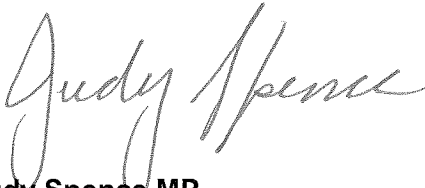
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**Telephone +61 7 3239 0199**  
**Facsimile +61 7 3221 9985**  
**Email [police@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:police@ministerial.qld.gov.au)**  
ABN 65 959 415 158

The Police Service has reviewed the use of helicopters several times in recent years and is currently carrying out a review of the Police Service's requirement for the use of fixed and rotary wing aircraft.

When compared to other Australian jurisdictions, the Queensland Police Service is not disadvantaged in regard to helicopter access and does not intend to change the way it currently accesses helicopter services.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Spence". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

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