



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

Ref No: 2021/5062 LE  
Your Ref: A662088

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Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
[TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your correspondence dated 10 March 2021 in relation to Petition 3485-21 and Petition 3461-21.

I appreciate the petitioners' concerns and asked the Queensland Police Service (QPS) to investigate this matter so that I can be better informed about the issues raised.

I am advised that officers from the Deeragun Police Facility, which is located approximately six kilometres from the heart of Bushland Beach, conduct regular active patrols and proactive policing initiatives to keep the local community safe.

Further, I am informed that the Deeragun Police Division has an approved policing strength of 22 police officers. Officers from this Police Division are also supported by the almost 700 police officers who are allocated to the Townsville Police District which includes the Rapid Action and Patrols, the Townsville Dog Squad and the Townsville Tactical Crime Squad.

I am also advised that Operation Tango Pheasant, which includes a policing focus on the Deeragun Police Division, including Bushland Beach, targets known high-risk recidivist offenders through intelligence-based strategies.

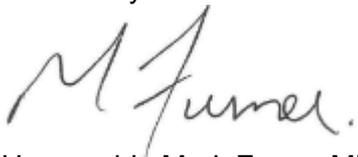
In addition, this government has announced tough new measures that build on our Five Point Action Plan on Youth Offending to target the cohort of high-risk recidivist youth offenders. That being said, we know there is always more than can be done and these new measures include a combination of new strategies, such as GPS tracking on certain high-risk repeat youth offenders and tough new laws.

When it comes to targeting criminal offending, everyone, including the government, is on the same page: we all want a safer community, and we all want offenders held to account for the crimes they commit. Importantly, we agree that anti-social behaviour in Bushland Beach or anywhere else in Queensland should never be tolerated.

Regarding the allocation of police resources, including police facilities, this is determined by the Police Commissioner following a detailed assessment of area growth, community safety and any new or emerging issues. The Police Commissioner makes this decision free of any political interference to ensure a fair and equitable service is provided throughout Queensland. As such, I am advised by the QPS there are no plans to build a new police facility in Bushland Beach at this time. However, I have been assured that police will continue to monitor the policing response in the area to ensure community safety is met and maintained now and into the future.

In addition, as a result of the government's recently announced record investment in additional policing resources, at least 150 additional police officers will be allocated to the Townsville Police District. This additional resourcing will obviously further support the efforts of the QPS to enhance community safety in the Bushland Beach.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Furner'.

The Honourable Mark Furner MP

**A/Minister for Police and Corrective Services and  
Minister for Fire and Emergency Services**