



Hon Judy Spence MP
Member for Mt Gravatt

Ref: 9412 F1 LT

25 JUN 2008

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 16 April 2008 concerning petition numbers 1041-08 and 985-08 regarding the need for laws or provisions to combat the jumping from Gold Coast bridges into waterways.

I referred your correspondence to the Queensland Police Service and am advised that Sergeant Tim Bennett of the Palm Beach Police Station has conducted a review into the petitioners' concerns.

The practice of persons jumping from bridge structures into waterways creates the potential for serious, personal injury to both the jumpers and other waterway users. The Police Service advises that the Gold Coast City has an extensive road network which extends over a number of aquatic areas including canals, creeks and rivers. This network provides ample opportunity for people to engage in bridge jumping, should they chose to do so. In such instances, police rely on members of the community providing timely advice of any person who may be undertaking bridge jumping and/or other similar 'at risk' behaviours.

Gold Coast police, and in particular officers on the southern area of the Gold Coast District, regularly provide policing responses to reported instances of inappropriate behaviour in public areas, including jumping from bridge structures. In these instances police may utilise the provisions of 'Move on' powers under the *Police Powers & Responsibilities Act 2000*. These powers allow officers to issue personal directions to members of the public and then arrest persons who fail to follow given directions.

These policing activities operate in support of other proactive measures adopted by both Local and State Governments who control/own the respective bridges and other public assets.



Queensland
Government

LAID UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE

No.: 520873705



Minister for Police, Corrective Services
and Sport

MP: Hon J SPENCE MP

Clerk's Signature:

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9/11/08

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I am informed that many of the people engaging in this behaviour are of school age and in this regard, officers from the Elanora Neighbourhood Police Beat are providing a strong interface with local schools within the southern area of the Gold Coast. Students at these schools are regularly being exposed to social and personal safety awareness programs which cover a range of 'at risk' behaviours.

On 30 May 2008, the principal petitioner in this matter, Mr Merv Barker was contacted by Sergeant Bennett and informed of current policing actions being undertaken to address the issue of people jumping from Gold Coast bridges. During the contact, information was also shared in respect to local police contact arrangements in support of timely reporting of these types of incidents.

Mr Barker expressed his appreciation of the police contact and of the shared information.

Sergeant Bennett is available on telephone 5534 0222 for any further assistance required.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Spence".

Judy Spence MP
Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport