



Minister for Police and Community Safety

Ref No: 2024/3848 LM
Your Ref: A1255220

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19 April 2024

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your correspondence of 21 March 2024 regarding Petition 4046-24 and 4024-24 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 20 March 2024.

I appreciate the petitioners' concerns and sought advice from the Queensland Police Service (QPS) so that I can be better informed about the issues raised.

The allocation of police resources is a matter for the Commissioner of Police based on operational policing demand and direct service delivery requirements to ensure a fair and equitable service is provided throughout the State. I am advised these requirements can change as new policing issues emerge.

This Government has committed to the biggest boost to policing in Queensland in three decades. The 2021-22 record police budget supports the rollout of an additional 2,025 police personnel including 1,450 sworn officers over five years from 1 July 2020.

I am advised by the QPS that of the 1,450 additional sworn officers to be delivered over five years from 1 July 2020, the Police Commissioner has determined that at least 150 positions will be located in the Northern Region, which includes Townsville Police District under which Ayr and Home Hill Police Divisions are located.

I am further advised by the QPS that, as at 31 December 2023, there are 772 approved police officer positions in the Townsville Police District, a growth of 165 positions from 1 March 2015 to 31 December 2023. Additional growth positions will be allocated to the Townsville Police District during 2024-25. It will be a matter for the QPS as to where these positions will be placed in the Townsville Police District.

I am advised by the QPS that police districts have discretion and flexibility to move resources around as demand dictates to keep Queenslanders safe. For example, in addition to designated police division resources, specialist police group resources such as water police, drug squad, and homicide units, can be drawn upon to assist with attending to an incident or responding to a call.

Police divisions also have the ability to draw on resources from other geographically close police divisions to effectively provide policing services to the community.

In addition, Townsville Police District can also request a Mobile Police Beat be deployed to their local area. The Mobile Police Beat is a 'police station on wheels' giving the community immediate access to police at major events, investigations, and local crime hot spots. The Mobile Police Beat is deployed strategically across the district, and residents can request a deployment location, giving police more flexibility to respond to the needs of the community.

Further, I am also informed by the QPS that since November 2023, Operation Victor and Whiskey Unison officers have conducted multiple additional high visibility policing operations, deterring and disrupting offending in crime hotspots in Ayr and Home Hill.

The QPS has also recently commenced a major multi-level operation to reduce crime across Queensland communities. Operation Whiskey Legion involves additional police deploying to districts and joining forces with local officers to target a range of crime issues. This Operation will be expanded to other Districts across Queensland in due course. The QPS will continue tackling crime from all angles to ensure the community is safe and feels safe.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Ryan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

The Honourable Mark Ryan MP
Minister for Police and Community Safety