



Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Ref No: 13645 P3 JF

23 JUN 2014

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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petitions numbered 2267-14 and 2248-14 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 22 May 2014. The principal petitioner is Ms Natasha Lewis Honeyman of Brisbane. The petitions call for a review of public safety in Brisbane, including but not limited to a review of police coverage, public path lighting, closed circuit television, evening public transport timetables and connections across suburbs in the inner city. This includes a request for greater provision of public safety information, support services and awareness raising programs for residents, new residents and students new to Brisbane in collaboration with the Brisbane City Council (BCC) and universities and international colleges.

Firstly, I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this important matter with me. This Government is committed to making our streets safer, which is all part of our strong plan for a brighter future for all Queenslanders, including Brisbane City residents and its visitors.

In order to address the matters contained in the petition, I have sought advice from my Cabinet colleagues the Honourable Scott Emerson MP, Minister for Transport and Main Roads and the Honourable David Crisafulli MP, Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience, which is detailed throughout the below information.

Further, on 10 June 2014, I tabled a response to Question on Notice 356, where I reported on numerous policing and crime prevention initiatives being undertaken by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) in and around the Brisbane area. These will be detailed further in this response.

Police Coverage

The Newman Government is committed to revitalising frontline services by providing 1,100 additional police officers over four years. To date, more than 800 additional police officers have already been delivered across this great State.

The QPS advises that policing within the Brisbane City area is undertaken by officers from the Brisbane City, Fortitude Valley, South Bank and West End Police Stations. These officers also use Police Beats located in Brisbane City (Adelaide Street), Fortitude Valley (Valley Mall) and Milton (Barooka Road).

Between 1 April 2012 and 1 May 2014, the total number of officers across the police divisions of Brisbane City, Fortitude Valley, South Bank and West End has increased by 42 additional officers, bringing the total number of officers serving across this area as at 1 May 2014 to 313 officers.

Each of the Brisbane City area police stations are managed by an officer in charge, who monitors all offences within their division and allocates resources appropriately. Officers from each of the divisions regularly undertake joint proactive operations targeting crime, good order and traffic-related matters within the Brisbane City and Fortitude Valley areas to address any identified offending.

Public Path Lighting and CCTV

The QPS continually engages with BCC and other stakeholders of public spaces with a rolling program of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) audits and implementation of associated strategies in public spaces.

This program assesses safety and security risks to people and addresses issues including lighting, CCTV and physical aspects of the space. In the past 18 months, reviews have been conducted of the Brisbane City Botanical Gardens, Roma Street Parkland, Bedford Park in the Fortitude Valley, the Go-Between Bridge, and river walkways in Captain Burke Park, Thornton Street and the Kangaroo Point cliffs.

The BCC was approved a subsidy of \$350,000 under the 2013–14 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program – Infrastructure Subsidy – for the ‘CitySafe’ CCTV System Migration to Digital and CCTV Expansion Project. This funding is administered by the Department of Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience.

The project is still active and will provide a complete upgrade of Council's Community Safety CCTV Network ‘CitySafe’, along with an expansion of the system by up to seven CCTV cameras within the City and Fortitude Valley precincts.

Public Transport and Safety on the Network

Continued liaison is being undertaken with Translink, Queensland Rail and the QPS Railway Squad to ensure that people using public transport feel safe at all times. Operations are both uniformed and plain clothed, which utilises both compliance (ticket enforcement) and high-visibility patrolling (public safety) strategies.

TransLink is using proactive policies to target anti-social behaviour by doubling the number of senior network officers and conducting operations that cracks down on such inappropriate behaviour. Police, transit officers, senior network officers, security guards and mobile dog patrols operate across the rail network, including when there is a scheduled track closure.

Queensland Rail safety initiatives include more than 8,000 CCTV cameras on trains and at stations that are marked with blue and white striped lines. Most station platforms have enhanced lighting, CCTV and an emergency help phone nearby. Multiple emergency phones are also on-board all city trains with help phone buttons in every carriage.

Security measures in place at bus and train stations and on NightLink services include: security on board buses; security at major NightLink stops (Valley stops 211 and 212, City stops 153 and 116); and set downs anywhere along the route where it is safe to do so.

Furthermore, security measures in place on buses include CCTV coverage and two-way radio communication. Bus operators maintain two-way radio communication with their drivers should an incident occur, who are then best placed to notify the relevant authorities.

A Bus Safety Committee, chaired by Mr Steve Minnikin MP, Assistant Minister for Public Transport, has been established to consider and develop solutions for bus driver safety issues, such as violence on buses. Members of the committee include representatives from industry groups, union representation, Parents and Citizens' Associations, Brisbane Transport, a bus driver representative and key government agencies.

Busway station safety initiatives that have already been identified include busway officers completing safety walks at the stations during busy times (such as when school students are travelling), mobile busway officers patrolling the network 24/7, and all busway stations having an emergency phone which on activation directs the CCTV camera to the phone location. I am advised there is CCTV on all busway stations.

Other Crime Prevention Initiatives

The general amenity of sites and perceptions surrounding safety are jointly assessed by relevant agencies for each location. Site specific audits have included representations from agencies including the QPS, BCC, Queensland University of Technology and community representatives. Recommendations from the reviews have included:

- Observations regarding the general condition and amenity of the parks;
- Vegetation management;
- Visibility and associated lines of sight;
- The presence and adequacy of lighting infrastructure and associated repair or maintenance works;
- Potential conflict or interface between facility users, specifically in respect to formed paths;
- Use by itinerate persons;
- Vandalism;
- Signage and entrapment points;
- The amount and nature of facility use; and
- General maintenance of the area.

As result of the reviews, a dedicated City Police operational team known as Operation Brisbane has been established. The operation commenced on 4 April 2014 and has so far achieved 584 patrol hours, 629 street checks and 32 arrests.

This team, which includes 11 bike squad officers, provides a safe and secure environment for people who reside, work, travel on public transport, or visit entertainment precincts in the Brisbane City, South Bank and Kangaroo Point areas. The team:

- Maintain a high policing profile in key locations including educational institutions, transport hubs (rail/bus/taxi), parks, recreation areas and entertainment precincts;
- Provide personal safety and security advice to the public;
- Increase interaction between police officers and members of the public; and
- Increase customer focus at points of contact with members of the public, including front counter and police beat shops.

The strategy for Operation Brisbane also incorporates enhanced focus by QPS Brisbane City Station officers to engage with SupportLink, ensuring that any safety issues or concerns identified by members of the public are immediately addressed. There is also an emphasis on providing referral advice to community-based or Government organisations that may be able to assist.

Other community engagement initiatives undertaken in the Brisbane City area to keep residents and visitors safe include:

- Liaison with BCC through the allocation of a dedicated police officer to the City Safe CCTV office at peak times, enabling a timely and efficient response by QPS resources, to address public safety issues in the City and Fortitude Valley areas normally between 10pm to 6am on Friday and Saturday nights;
- Improved access to enhanced technology, with the recent introduction of five mini iPads, enabling Brisbane City and Fortitude Valley officers to gain remote access to all BCC 'City Safe' Cameras;
- Commencement of the Safe City Action Group (SCAG) involving all key stakeholders from Government and non-Government sectors, with their first meeting held on the 10 April 2014;
- Presentations to student groups by the North Brisbane District Crime Prevention Office, where over 40 presentations having been conducted since October 2013;
- Participating in the Griffith University Community Liaison Group which has included the implementation of a 'Buddy Scheme' involving mentors partnering with newly arrived international visitors;
- Delivery of targeted Personal Safety Program sessions to 365 community members since 28 March 2014 to an audience including international students, Southbank TAFE students, and workers and residents within the Kurilpa Park precinct (a further 1,100 community members have been reached by this program in non-targeted sessions); and
- Development of a commuter flyer in Chinese languages and English containing information to address street robberies of international student commuters.

Crime Prevention Officers and Police Liaison Officers have been deployed to major transport precincts and university campuses to deliver these personal safety brochures and other information to domestic and international students.

Additionally, the QPS has partnered with the BCC in the development of the Sunnybank Project to address offences against international students, particularly in the Sunnybank area. The Safer Living booklet has been developed to address safety issues with information translated into Chinese and to be translated into Korean. Two short advertisements on personal safety and road safety have also been developed for release at the Sunnybank Cinema in the near future. This was complemented by the Sunnybank Community Safety Seminar on the 27 March 2014.

This Government will remain committed to protecting our community and keeping our streets safe. I trust the abovementioned strategies target and address the concerns of the petitioners.

Should Ms Honeyman or any of the other petitioners have any further enquiries, Inspector Dan O'Connor, City Central Patrol Inspector, North Brisbane District, is available on telephone (07) 3258 2454.

Yours sincerely



Jack Dempsey MP

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services