



Speech by

Mrs J. SHELDON

MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA

Hansard 12 November 1998

LANDSBOROUGH POLICE STATION

Mrs SHELDON (Caloundra—LP) (10.21 a.m.): The future of the Landsborough Police Station is of great and growing concern to the people of Landsborough and surrounding districts. I have asked the Minister to guarantee that not only will the police station continue, but that its staff will not be downsized in any way and that the station's function as a divisional base for the region will not be replaced by a new station at Beerwah. So far, I have received only vague and non-committal answers, and so have the many people in the Landsborough community who have voiced their concerns.

The police station and courthouse at Landsborough not only provide vital services to the community but also are buildings of considerable historical significance. The Landsborough Police Station originated in the late 1880s.

Landsborough is a progressive and growing town. It is served by electric rail. Indeed, the new tilt train, which reaches speeds of around 160km/h, will stop at Landsborough. That will increase the town's popularity as a residential area with quick access to work or business in the city.

Police records for the area show that the evidence of crime in the Landsborough district is not significantly less than that of the Beerwah area. As well, the Landsborough Police Station is at the epicentre of the areas covered by this policing division. At the moment these areas include such towns as Beerwah, Mooloolah and Glenview.

The coalition committed itself to establishing a police presence at Beerwah, but at no time did we envisage closing or diminishing the actual police numbers at Landsborough. It would also make sense that with future population growth, and considering the land and buildings in operation at Landsborough, there would naturally be expansion on the existing site.

It is grossly unfair for the current Police Minister to ignore the very genuine concerns of residents of the Landsborough area. It is not sufficient for the Minister to try to palm off the people of Landsborough and their elected member by not committing himself to guaranteeing police numbers existing now or in the future by saying that it is impossible to predict the policing needs of this region. Policing models would be able to predict, with reasonable accuracy, future population growth and policing needs. It is time that the Minister came clean and told us what he really intends for the Landsborough Police Station and for the policing needs of the people of Landsborough and surrounding areas.

Time expired.
