



Speech by

**Dr LESLEY CLARK**

**MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER**

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Hansard 17 September 1998

### **CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY**

**Dr CLARK** (Barron River—ALP) (10.34 p.m.): Prior to the election, the Labor Party made it very clear that the Government was going to be both tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime. Yesterday in this House the Premier announced the formulation of the Crime Prevention Task Force that will drive the Government's \$47m Crime Prevention Strategy in partnership with the community. If we are going to be successful in tackling crime, that partnership with the community is essential, and it is something that I have personally fostered as chair of a local juvenile crime prevention task force and coordinator of my local Freshwater Neighbourhood Watch.

Since being re-elected, I have worked with the officers of the Smithfield Police Station to re-establish the police/community consultative committee for the Marlin Coast, which has not operated over the past three years. This consultative committee consists of people from a wide cross-section of our community, with representatives from various beach townships as well as business, local government, education, youth, recreation, welfare and emergency services. The president of the committee is Charles Williams, of Machans Beach, who is well known for his long and selfless service to Neighbourhood Watch organisations. I wish to put on record my personal admiration and appreciation of him for his willingness to continue to serve the community despite his not being in the best of health. Ann Mauger, the vice-president, is the local deputy principal and will bring her considerable skills to this position. I thank both her and the committee secretary, Clare Minchin, and of course the police themselves, particularly acting Senior Sergeant Peter Olesen, who organised the meeting to establish the committee, and Senior Constable Dave Raymond, who is equally committed to community policing on the Marlin Coast.

The Government's Crime Prevention Strategy will be underpinned by extra Police Beats and shopfronts. I wish again to record my thanks to the Police Minister, Tom Barton, who has responded positively to my representations for a Police Beat at Trinity Beach on the Marlin Coast, which has the highest crime rate of the townships there and which has been plagued by youth crime and vandalism problems over recent years. I anticipate also that the operation of the Smithfield Police Station will be improved with the final appointment of a permanent senior sergeant, a position that has been vacant for the past 18 months—something which is an indictment on the previous Government.

Time expired.

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