



Speech by

**Mr TIM MULHERIN**

**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

---

Hansard 27 August 1998

### **VANDALISM, SLADE POINT**

**Mr MULHERIN** (Mackay—ALP) (2.17 a.m.): I rise to speak today about the proactive steps that have been taken by the residents of Slade Point in my electorate to curb the incidence of vandalism in their neighbourhood. In May I met with residents of Slade Point following complaints of increasing vandalism and loutish behaviour in the area. Some residents told me that they were unable to obtain insurance on their properties because of the number of times their properties had been vandalised. The Slade Point Primary School had also been targeted, with vandals painting graffiti on school buildings and even defecating on the school property.

Following contact that I made with Mackay police, patrols in the area were increased. However, in view of the obvious need for permanent action, I call for the establishment of a dedicated Police Beat at Slade Point. I believe that Slade Point, because of its geographical location and its relative isolation from the rest of the Mackay City area, is an ideal location for a Police Beat. The establishment of a Police Beat involves the Queensland Police Service providing a home and a patrol car for an officer. The officer would then work from home and therefore maintain a constant police presence in the area while working with the community. People want to see more police on the beat or driving around on patrol so they can feel safer. The establishment of a Police Beat at Slade Point would ensure that police patrols are increased, allowing residents to feel more secure and, hopefully, facilitating the capture of the vandals and louts who are currently roaming the area.

In line with our pre-election policy to extend the highly successful community Police Beat initiative, the Labor Party is committed to the establishment of the Slade Point Police Beat as part of the overall law and order package for that area. The enhancement of the community policing strategies to further promote partnerships between the police and community members will assist greatly in the curtailing of crime.

In addition to that initiative, Constable Jacinta Buchbach of the Mackay police and I organised a public meeting held on 23 July to gauge support for a new neighbourhood watch. That meeting was an outstanding success, with some 120 people attending. Guest speaker, Acting Senior Sergeant Peter Van Vree, Coordinator of the Queensland Neighbourhood Watch, said that it was the largest and most enthusiastic neighbourhood watch meeting he had attended. At the meeting, a small coordinating committee was formed and area coordinators were appointed.

Time expired.

---