



Speech by

**BRUCE DAVIDSON**

**MEMBER FOR NOOSA**

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Hansard 27 May 1999

### **COOLUM POLICE STATION**

**Mr DAVIDSON** (Noosa—LP) (7.18 p.m.): I bring to the attention of the House an issue of great concern to people in my electorate and, in particular, in Coolum. It has experienced rapid growth in areas of residential development and tourist facilities. Under the coalition Government, negotiations for the construction of a new, expanded police station in Coolum were well advanced.

An agreement had been reached by Queensland Police Service corporate services to negotiate the purchase of suitable land in Perry Street, Coolum, from the Department of Public Works and Housing. Part of the negotiations included the disposal of land at Point Arkwright, which is owned by the Queensland Police Service, as well as the eventual sale of the existing police station at Mount Emu. For some time, the residents of Coolum have felt neglected by the existing station, which is sited approximately two kilometres from the CBD. On many occasions, they have complained to me that the current station at Mount Emu does not provide an appropriate police profile or visual police presence in the central and major residential areas.

All members of this House are aware of the importance that the police presence plays in the day-to-day lifestyle and contentment of their constituents. In the past 24 hours, I have received many calls from people who are incredulous and concerned. They have advised me that an auction sign has been put up at the site of the proposed police station in Perry Street.

All of those people are justifiably angered by the lack of consultation by the Queensland Police Service and the Police Minister on this issue. Local businesspeople and concerned citizens alike have requested that I raise this issue as a matter of utmost importance. Their major concern is the security of the property as the most appropriate and perhaps the only site on which the much-needed station can be established. I have written to the Premier and the Police Minister on behalf of the people of Coolum, requesting an urgent meeting on this issue in the fervent hope that direct consultation may yet save this valuable site and the future much-needed police presence in this community.

I acknowledge the presence of the Police Minister in the Chamber. I am about to leave this place to meet with his senior policy adviser. I know that he is aware of the concerns that many residents have as far as policing is concerned. Hopefully we can have some discussions and further negotiation on what we might be able to provide for the people of Coolum. I know that the Minister understands that. I know that he has enormous issues, tasks and responsibilities——

Time expired.

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