



Speech by

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POLICE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS IN PINE RIVERS

Mrs LAVARCH (Kurwongbah—ALP) (12 p.m.): Last Sunday the Pine Rivers Crime Free Consultative Committee hosted Clean Up Graffiti Day. As I reported during the last sitting of Parliament, this is one of the major projects for the committee in its work to enhance community safety. The day was a success and was made all the more so because of the commitment of Main Roads, Energex and Queensland Rail to clean up the graffiti on their infrastructure in the Strathpine area. I commend Main Roads, Energex and Q Rail for the work that they did leading up to Clean Up Graffiti Day last Sunday. I make special mention of the Main Roads crews whose work has made Gympie Road, Strathpine, so neat and tidy that it actually sparkles. In all the years that I have lived in Pine Rivers, I have never seen Gympie Road looking so spruce.

The Pine Rivers Crime Free Consultative Committee is a partnership between the community and police in the Pine Rivers area. Its second project for the year aims at encouraging people to identify their property. The committee has produced a pamphlet that it is distributing throughout the area which calls on people to list all of the property that they have in their houses. The pamphlet contains a small message, which states—

"Crime Free in conjunction with Petrie Police have identified the following property groups are frequently stolen during home burglaries.

We recommend you NOW record the model, serial numbers or engraving details of these categories for future reference."

By encouraging people to keep lists of all of the equipment that they have in their houses and businesses, police work will be made a little easier if property is stolen. Of course, this is not the only community and police partnership operating in the Pine Rivers area. Police and community partnerships are spread across a number of initiatives and have not only enhanced community safety but have also strengthened our sense of community. Their significance and worth are such that I raise them today as a matter of public importance.

Two weeks ago I attended the 11th annual general meeting of the Police Citizens Youth Club of Pine Rivers, which is in its 12th year of operation and has grown from strength to strength.

Mr Reeves interjected.

Mrs LAVARCH: As the member for Mansfield says, it is a very good club. The club reported increased membership and also had a pleasing financial bottom line. In the hope of receiving some financial assistance through the Sport and Recreation Community Grants in the present round of funding allocations, extensions to the building are planned for this financial year.

Through the PCYC, the police and the community are working in partnership to provide vital services to the young people of Pine Rivers. Their most successful program is the Bike Ed Program, which operates in nearly all of the local primary schools. In the past year, 1,500 children received valuable road safety bike education. This program was greatly assisted by Queensland Transport's donation of a trailer, 10 bicycles and helmets. I take this opportunity to make particular mention of Mrs Pat Whitelaw, who was one of the original volunteer instructors and then the coordinator of the Bike Ed Program. Pat has now retired as the coordinator and instructor and is pursuing other interests, but the community is greatly indebted to her for her community service.

On 3 June this year, the Bray Park Community Police Beat was officially opened. In the past three months, Senior Constables Adam Willmott and Tim Brown have made themselves well known in

the Bray Park community and have been warmly embraced by residents and businesses in their beat area. Last Saturday, to promote child protection week, they held a sausage sizzle at Kensington Village Shopping Centre. Local businesses got behind this promotion by donating all the food and equipment. In another police and community partnership, Senior Constables Willmott and Brown have established a community consultative committee in their police beat area, joining together the police, local residents, businesses and community groups. This committee has also identified that graffiti is a major issue in its area and has determined to concentrate its efforts on reducing the incidence of graffiti.

Graffiti is wilful damage and is the most visible of crimes. The consultative committee believes that feelings of community safety will be enhanced if graffiti is cleaned up the minute it appears. The committee plans to have a trailer permanently available containing all of the gear required to clean up graffiti. If graffiti appears, community members can just ring a committee member or the police beat and someone will attend to clean up the graffiti. At this stage, financial assistance is required to purchase a trailer and the necessary equipment. I am sure that the businesses of Pine Rivers will get behind the project and give generously. Indeed, I am sure that they will be delighted to make their contribution to crime prevention.

The work of the Bray Park Community Police Beat builds on the work of the now established Police Beat shopfront at Westfield. Again the police are showing leadership by bringing together businesses and the police in the establishment of a Strathpine Business Association. Under the leadership of Senior Constable Steve Christensen, the business community and the police of Strathpine are working together to enhance safety for not only the retailers and businesses of Strathpine but also the shoppers and general community. I must say that Steve's weekly newsletter, the Blue Print, is the highlight of the week for the retailers of Westfield. However, police and community partnerships do not stop there. We also have a strong network of Neighbourhood Watches and many local schools have a Safety House Program.

Another committee that has been operating for about three years in Pine Rivers is the Plan Safe Committee, which sees the police, State Government departments, the council, Neighbourhood Watch groups, Safety House committees and community groups join together to ensure that safety is a key issue in our community planning. This means that safety audits are conducted for public parks, railway stations, schools, public spaces and new developments. This committee has worked effectively with the police to identify unsafe areas and then make recommendations to the appropriate authorities to improve safety in that local area. Examples of the committee's work include the fencing of the Bray Park Railway Station car park and the provision of lighting and cameras in the area, as many cars were being stolen from that car park. The committee has provided lighting on the paths through John Bray Park and has conducted continual safety audits along Four Mile Creek.

Another initiative in relation to police and community partnerships for the prevention of crime relates to domestic violence. Out of a recognition that the police alone cannot respond to domestic violence and neither can Government and community agencies, the Caboolture Regional Domestic Violence Service, which has an outreach service in Pine Rivers, recently held a meeting to initiate a coordinated community response to domestic violence. As a result of that public meeting, the Caboolture domestic violence reference group was set up with focus groups in all surrounding areas. The reference group will be the lead agency in setting up a community justice approach to domestic violence in our area. It was pleasing to see that representatives from the courts, community agencies, Government departments, the police and local community groups all expressed a commitment to working together to strengthen our community response to domestic violence.

Also at this public meeting, the Caboolture Regional Domestic Violence Service launched its referral card, which carries the police logo. I am told that this is the first time that the police logo has been put on referral cards given to a domestic violence agency. Boldly written across the front of the card is "Domestic Violence—It's a Crime". Five thousand cards have been produced with a grant from the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund and have been delivered to all police in the Caboolture, Petrie and Redcliffe areas. If police attend a domestic violence incident, they will give one card to the victim and one to the perpetrator. The card lists agencies that can provide help to either or both parties. The card will also state who the attending police officers were. The victim and the perpetrator can keep that information for future reference. The Caboolture Regional Domestic Violence Service has said that this will help it in its work as well.

The police and community initiatives that I have outlined today show the strength of the partnership between the police and the community in Pine Rivers. In the time available I have probably not been able to do justice to expressing the value of those partnerships and how the police, in addition to their traditional policing roles, are promoting and maintaining our sense of community. However, their work does not go unnoticed. In conclusion, I commend all police officers in our area, as well as those in the general community, for showing that we can work together to improve our quality of life and enhance our safety.