



Speech by

Mr M. HORAN

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Hansard 25 May 1999

POLICE RESOURCES

Mr HORAN (Toowoomba South—NPA) (10.21 a.m.): Everywhere around this State people are asking, "Where have all the police numbers gone?", because under the coalition Government we put in place a massive recruitment program that saw some 350 to 400 additional police provided to this State each year. We now see Stanthorpe in desperate need of a 24-hour police station and additional police officers. We see the community of Beaudesert calling out for a 24-hour police station and additional police officers. At the Nambour station, there is only one patrol car rostered on after hours and on the weekend between Maroochydore and Cooroy, and there is a telephone outside the locked door of the police station taped up with sticky tape on which a person could try to get someone during those particular times. There is a desperate need at Kirwan for another patrol car and additional police officers. Places such as Boondall, Indooroopilly and Wynnum have only one police officer per 1,000 people. Where have all the police numbers gone? What is the current Police Minister doing about these police numbers?

But worst of all is Redcliffe, Mr Speaker, and I know that it is a place dear to your heart. In Redcliffe the local member, the Honourable the Speaker, has indicated that property crime is four times what it was at this time last year. He has indicated that the hoons are now coming back to Redcliffe. I suppose that is because the Labor Government is in power. The hoons are coming back into the Anzac Avenue area. The council is desperate for more police and all it asks for is patrols in the CBD during the busy times of Friday and Saturday night—the very least one would expect in a place such as Redcliffe. What does the Police Minister put forward? A \$50 an hour charge if the council wants an additional police officer! They can only provide one officer. If the council wants another one because two have to work together during those dangerous periods, it is going to cost it \$50 an hour—pass the hat around. It is just like in Sydney where two councils had to do that because of the actions of the Labor Government. We are facing the same semi-privatisation of the Police Service here. It is an absolute disgrace and this Government just cannot deliver.

Time expired.
