



Speech by

**Mr TIM MULHERIN**

**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

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Hansard 4 March 1999

**SLADE POINT POLICE BEAT**

**Mr MULHERIN** (Mackay—ALP) (7.12 p.m.): I agree totally with the member for Gladstone, so long as they have got some peas.

I am very pleased to rise in the House this evening to speak about a policing initiative which will be of tremendous benefit to the suburb of Slade Point in my electorate of Mackay. I am speaking of the soon to be operational Slade Point Police Beat.

Slade Point is a great community. However, late last year residents were subjected to bouts of loutish behaviour and vandalism. Louts defecated on school property, painted obscene graffiti, broke and entered community facilities such as the Girl Guides hut and the Catholic Church, vandalised private property and stole. I met with local residents and community leaders about the problems and spoke to Superintendent Robert Retrot of the Mackay police, who agreed to increase patrols in the area.

Locals told me that they wanted a permanent police presence in the suburb. I spoke to the then Opposition Police spokesperson, the Honourable Tom Barton, about the problem and the need for a beat in Slade Point. We inspected the area and he agreed that a police beat would go some way to addressing the crime problems in the area.

During the election campaign, Labor promised the people of Slade Point that, in the first 12 months of coming to office, a Beattie Labor Government would locate a Police Beat at Slade Point. The announcement last week by the Minister honours our election commitment to this community. The beat, which is located in Michael Moohin Drive, is expected to be operational by the end of May.

The announcement has been well received by the Slade Point residents, who have worked with me, Superintendent Robert Retrot and his officers in the Mackay police, Mr Tony McGrath of Neighbourhood Watch and his own coordinators, Mr John Mallet of the Crime Prevention Partnership, and other youth agencies in seeking a proactive community response to crime. Finally, I thank the Minister for Police on behalf of the residents of Slade Point for honouring Labor's election commitment.

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