



Speech by

**BILL FELDMAN**

**MEMBER FOR CABOOLTURE**

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Hansard 18 May 2000

### **CABOOLTURE POLICE STATION**

**Mr FELDMAN** (Caboolture—CCAQ) (7.14 p.m.): I rise tonight to speak on behalf of the overworked Caboolture police who, despite the repeated promises of the Minister for Police, are still under strength. The station currently has five unfilled vacancies, two general duties staff relieving in the prosecutions section—a district responsibility, not the station's responsibility—one staff member on maternity leave and one about to be, one staff member relieving in the CIB and one staff member relieving on Bribie Island.

Effectively, instead of the 10 staff promised as an increase last year—and I stood up and backed the Minister on this—the station at Caboolture has effectively had a decrease of 10. Caboolture needs more than just promises; it needs bums in the station and on the street.

Not only have staff numbers not improved, but resources and equipment are down as well. For example, the station operates without microcassettes—an essential tool. Just the other day, after sending a requisition for paperclips for their correspondence, as they were out of them, they were directed by district headquarters to drive some 15 kilometres to the Deception Bay Police Station to pick up a spare box of paperclips. That is hardly an effective or economic use of resources, cars or men when, at a stationery store across the road from the Caboolture Police Station, a packet of paperclips costs as little as \$2. I have a packet of paperclips here for the Minister to pass on to the station.

What is the Minister going to do for the Caboolture residents and the business owners—those people the Minister saw last year—to ensure adequate staffing and resources for the hardworking men and women of that station?

As a tribute to their hard work, I completely support my former workmates—especially those in the Redcliffe district who were involved in the shooting of the armed offender at Deception Bay last week. It was a tragic event which led to police officers placing their lives in danger in protecting the public from a drug-affected and crazed individual. I say this to them, "Keep up the good work because I and many others know the real pressure that you are under." I say to the Minister that these officers need his support. I ask the Minister to ensure that those vacancies at Caboolture and at Bribie Island are filled.

Time expired.

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