



Speech by

CATE MOLLOY

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

Hansard 1 August 2001

POLICE RESOURCES, NOOSA

Ms MOLLOY (Noosa—ALP) (7.34 p.m.): I would like to take this opportunity to draw the attention of the House to the Beattie government's response to law and order issues and the impact that it is having on my electorate of Noosa. Firstly, the people of Eumundi are looking forward to seeing their new police station. This new station, being built under the government's small stations program, will be a great improvement over their present rented facility and is certain to be in the long-term operational interests of the Police Service. On a broader note, the people of the Sunshine Coast should also be happy with the deployment of the additional 14 police officers who will make up the new Tactical Crime Police Squad to be stationed on the Sunshine Coast. This will be a real boost for responsive and effective policing in the region.

While these are welcome signs that the Beattie government is taking law and order issues seriously, we need to continue working with the community to further enhance the police presence in the area. The people of Coolum continually express to me what they consider to be an inadequate police presence. I have heard what they are saying and will continue to make representations to the minister in an effort to upgrade services. I acknowledge that the minister faces a huge challenge in trying to cater for Police Service needs across the state. To his credit, he has given and continues to give me time to talk through the police issues important to the people whom I represent.

The House should recall that on 17 May I presented a petition to Mr Speaker requesting a fully staffed 24-hour police facility for Coolum. Two of my constituents, Mrs Jocelyn Hahn and Mrs Lorraine Robertson, travelled from Coolum in the early hours of the morning to be at that presentation. Both people are senior residents of Coolum who are highly active within our community. As *Hansard* records, 87 signatures were presented that day. However, this figure does not represent accurately the strength of feeling that the Coolum community has on this issue. In establishing the petition, Mrs Hahn sought assistance from the Liberal federal member for Fairfax, Mr Alex Somlyay and, as a result of an apparent lack of attention to correct parliamentary procedure and detail, some 3,426 signatures of those collected had to be omitted. I now proffer those signatures to be tabled.

The Beattie government is making positive improvements to Police Service delivery and infrastructure across Queensland and in my electorate. I acknowledge, as does the minister, that people feel threatened. As the elected member, I have a responsibility to continue working in a positive way with the community and with the government to build on police numbers and build infrastructure. That is why I am pleased to say that Coolum is to receive two new constables. These fresh, enthusiastic constables are welcome in our community.

Time expired.
