



Speech by

**KERRY SHINE**

**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH**

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Hansard 3 May 2001

**TOOWOOMBA POLICE STATION**

**Mr SHINE** (Toowoomba North—ALP) (10.20 a.m.): I wish to raise my concerns about the pressing need for the construction of a new and adequate police station in Toowoomba. Currently, the Police Service in Toowoomba has had to spread itself in all directions, particularly as far as office space is concerned. This clearly puts at risk the capacity for the service in Toowoomba to operate efficiently. Added to that highly unsatisfactory position is the fact that most police officers and other service employees have had to work in what is now an ancient rabbit-warren that is better suited as a museum to house the relics of a bygone age than providing the basic needs of a modern and capable police force.

I understand that, in the last term of this government, plans were drawn up but proceedings were put on hold largely due to the possible joint development of a project with the proposed developer of the old courthouse situated nearby. As that building has now been sold and is being used for other purposes, I call upon the Minister for Police to again bring to the top of the list the need to provide that much-needed public facility at Toowoomba, notwithstanding that there is no doubt that the work will be expensive.

I have given a commitment to the people of Toowoomba that I will fight to get extra police resources for the city. The battle for a new police station has been going on for some years. Members opposite, even when in government, have not been able to deliver. However, I plan to deliver, and I will not rest until this has been achieved.

A new police station is vital to reducing crime and making Toowoomba a safer community. I have met with the Minister for Police to make my views known, and I have to say that I believe that he is very aware of our city's situation. But the cornerstone of the Beattie government's law and order policy is a commitment to deliver a record increase in police numbers.

Time expired.

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