



Speech by

**Dr DAVID WATSON**

**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

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Hansard 19 February 2002

### **KENMORE POLICE STATION**

**Dr WATSON** (Moggill—Lib) (7.08 p.m.): On 27 December the ANZ bank at Kenmore was robbed yet again. The ANZ bank, unlike the Westpac bank, which was robbed last year, is actually across the road from the unmanned Kenmore Police Station rather than next door, like the Westpac bank. Let me quote from an account from someone who was there at the time. He reported to me the following—

I was shopping with my Mother in Kenmore Shopping Village on December 27 when a lady came rushing in and screamed that the ANZ bank was being robbed. I immediately, perhaps foolishly, rushed outside to see what was going on. I joined 2 fellows with mobile phones who were watching the bank. They had immediately contacted the police.

Now I can remember as a primary school boy attending the official opening of the Kenmore police station. Unfortunately, the two fellows with the mobile phones were not in contact with the Kenmore police station. Also, it appeared that the bank robbers were fully aware that the police station was not operating because they were certainly taking their time.

After what appeared like an age, the robbers emerged from the bank with their firearms and hopped into their car. These guys appeared to be the most relaxed robbers imaginable. They were not expecting to be interrupted or intercepted by the police. For a split second you wonder whether or not you should intervene because it is extraordinarily frustrating seeing these guys get away with it. Anyway, cooler heads prevailed and we stood there watching the robbers slowly drive out of the shopping centre car park politely giving way to other shoppers. When the police did eventually arrive, they were polite, efficient and effective. But the horse had well and truly bolted.

That is an account from an eye witness. If a person cannot frustrate a bank robbery, when two members of the public on mobile phones are giving a blow-by-blow description to the police, then there must be something seriously wrong. When robbers are acting with the sort of nonchalance that one would expect at a Sunday school picnic, then there is something terribly wrong. People have a right to expect more for their taxpayers' dollars than they are getting from this government.

According to the minutes of a recently held Kenmore police divisional community consultative council meeting, the newly appointed officer in charge at Indooroopilly, Inspector Davis, is intending to reopen the Kenmore Police Station. I just hope for the sake of the constituents of Moggill that Inspector Davis receives more support from the Commissioner in this endeavour than Davis's predecessor did. I urge both the Commissioner and the Police Minister to do their bit this time and reopen the Kenmore Police Station.

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