



Speech by

**DESLEY SCOTT**

**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Hansard 31 July 2002

**APPROPRIATION BILLS—ESTIMATES B**

**Mrs DESLEY SCOTT** (Woodridge—ALP) (3.25 p.m.): I am very happy to take this opportunity to speak about the Queensland Police Service and, in particular, to highlight the path that policing is taking in my own electorate. Our minister is presently overseas; and although I was not a member of Estimates Committee B, I am a very active member of the honourable minister's caucus committee.

Our Logan City Police Service is a very integral part of our community and has moved way beyond merely being reactive in dealing with crime. We all know there are many causes of crime and many initiatives which will decrease crime in a community. In Logan the community partnerships are making a real difference. I commend our senior officers for the direction and leadership they give and for being very proactive members of our community. It is widely maintained that in Logan City the Police Service gives a first-year constable five years rolled into one. Yes, it is a very busy district, but I am happy to report to this House that the crime rate is indeed dropping. I want to commend our Superintendent Alex Erwin, Inspector Maurie Alker and Senior Sergeant Mike Pearson at Logan Central for the tremendous work they do, and our acting officer in charge at Browns Plains. Policing in this district encompasses many roles, and I wish to highlight some of these important aspects.

Two years ago community renewal started changing the landscape of the Woodridge-Kingston area. To a very large degree this has fostered partnerships between our various community groups and state and local government and has empowered our community to seek practical solutions to their perceived areas of need. I am pleased to say that our police have taken a lead role in many of these projects. First and foremost was the Logan project, designed to engage our community in Neighbourhood Watch. Mr Malcolm Taylor, one of our highly valued VIPs, took the lead and was able to multiply our Neighbourhood Watch groups to approximately 22. These groups have become the backbone of our community and have more far-reaching effects in the area than the reduction of crime—important though that may be. It is wonderful to observe the caring networks that have developed out of this project and the new-found confidence and feeling of added security. This network is overseen by two police community consultative committees, which enables another opportunity for further community engagement in making our communities safe. Should members visit a community meeting, school fete, et cetera, in the Marsden-Crestmead-Browns Plains district they will be sure to meet Sergeant Ted Dale, a true example of community policing.

Last Saturday evening a wonderful celebration of volunteering through our Neighbourhood Watch groups was held at our PCYC in Logan Central. Organised by Donna Van Drueten, our Logan community safe coordinator, the evening attracted approximately 150 people who had come to recognise each and everyone who was giving so freely of their time to improve their neighbourhood. Delightful music, dance, good food—the evening was enjoyed by all. Our Senior Sergeant Mike Pearson and wife, Wendy, graciously attended to applaud their community. I might also add that Senior Sergeant Pearson was our special guest speaker at this year's disability awards—a police officer who genuinely values our volunteers. Police officers such as Steven Miles, Steve Dennis and Mark Gleeson work in our schools and become the friendly face of policing to assist and counsel students. I greatly admire the work that they do.

Logan has a very diverse multicultural mix of people, and this presents unique challenges. Our police take the time to meet with our ethnic groups to ensure they understand the scope of policing and also to train our police so that they can treat certain issues in a culturally sensitive manner. I commend Sue Tasman, our community liaison officer at Logan Central, for many years of very caring policing.

Similarly, our police have undergone special training to enable them to deal with domestic violence issues and work with our Fax-Back program, which has now gained Australiawide recognition. I put on record my thanks to our Police Minister for a new police beat in the Crestmead-Marsden area, which has just commenced operation. This police presence in this area will make a significant difference to nuisance crime. Our PCYC centre, under the leadership of Kylie Dunn, runs a wonderful program and trains many of our children and young people in sporting and other activities.

Time expired.

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