



Speech by

Dr DAVID WATSON

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Hansard 1 May 2003

POLICE FACILITY, KENMORE

Dr WATSON (Moggill—Lib) (6.42 p.m.): On 10 March this year I wrote to the Commissioner for Police regarding the establishment of a better police facility in the Kenmore area. I did this because in the middle of last year the Police Commissioner was good enough to come to my electorate and attend a public meeting to discuss the police facilities in the Kenmore area conducted under the auspices of the Kenmore Police and Community Consultative Council. At that meeting the Commissioner indicated that by early this year he would be in a position to say something about the development of the Kenmore police facilities. In responding on 15 April the Commissioner indicated that the feasibility and merits of various options in the Kenmore area are currently still under consideration. To this end, negotiations have been initiated with the owners of the properties concerned. I understand that there are about five properties being looked at. Accordingly, apparently he is not in a position yet to make any public statement regarding the location or the type of police facility to be potentially established at Kenmore.

This issue has been going on for some time now—in fact, for about a decade since the early 1990s when under the Goss Labor government the disastrous cluster system was experimented with and the Kenmore Police Station was essentially closed. About two years ago—that is, April 2001—I first wrote to the commissioner raising this particular concern. At that time the minister replied saying that the Queensland Police Service had identified a number of options for a proposed restructure of the Metropolitan North Police Region but at that time the matter was still under consideration. Consequently, he was not in a position at that stage to provide advice on plans of the Kenmore station. Later that year that review had essentially been undertaken and the Metropolitan North region had an ongoing review associated with the strategic planning of police services in that area. They were reacting to the concerns that had been raised by the community about the level of patrols, police responses and times to call the service. One of the areas concerned was the Kenmore-Bellbowrie area. At that time the minister indicated that a police beat was being considered in Kenmore.

I urge the commissioner to complete his considerations as soon as possible. The issue of policing in Kenmore has not decreased in the past couple of years. We appreciate the commissioner putting the effort in, but I urge him to continue to ensure that that decision making comes to a speedy resolution.