



Speech by

JO-ANN MILLER

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Hansard 14 October 2003

POLICE SERVICE ADMINISTRATION [ALCOHOL AND DRUG TESTING] AMENDMENT BILL

Mrs MILLER (Bundamba—ALP) (10.11 p.m.): I wish to support the Police Service Administration (Alcohol and Drug Testing) Amendment Bill 2003. The legislation provides for random alcohol breath testing and targeted urine and drug testing for police officers with the objectives to, firstly, ensure appropriate steps are taken in the interests of the health and welfare of officers and other staff members in critical areas and, secondly, to enhance the integrity of the service and the public's confidence in the Queensland Police Service.

I want to talk briefly tonight about the Goodna police, because they are very highly respected in my community. We have police beats in Riverview and Goodna. Currently, a police beat is being built at Redbank Plains and I look forward to the Police Minister coming out and formally opening our new police beat that is being built there. We also have shopfronts at Redbank Plaza and one being built at Springfield Lakes. I want to say to the House that our Goodna police work very, very hard in an environment where it is rather difficult to police. We are an area of great disadvantage and poverty, yet the police are always there to provide good law and order in our community. The police are also very strongly supported by neighbourhood watches. I would like to thank the minister and the Police Commissioner who a few months ago addressed a combined meeting of Neighbourhood Watch groups at the Redbank School of Arts. It was an extremely successful evening. Can I say that Pam at Springfield, Donna at Collingwood Park, Bill at Riverview and Steve at the Bundamba neighbourhood watches are still talking about how grateful they were that the minister and the Police Commissioner took the time out on that winter's evening to come out and talk about the great initiatives of the Queensland Police Service.

Only this afternoon at the Claypave Arbour Day celebrations at Ebbw Vale we had two police officers there to show support to the residents. They were Sergeant Rodney Ward and Sergeant Danny Shaw from the Goodna police. It was very timely that they, in fact, turned up because some of the older residents were telling me how they were concerned about their homes being broken into. They were very grateful that these officers turned up and showed the community that they do, in fact, support the local people, particularly our elderly people.

Only yesterday in Goodna we had the mounted police in Queen Street and Smith Street. We now also have motorcycle police on the Ipswich Motorway, which we are very grateful for. I would just like to have more police liaison officer time in my area, particularly if we could have Philip Lafutu, who is a leader of our Samoan community and a very grand man, working down at our Goodna Police Station. Overall, in terms of the integrity of the police and the reputation of the police in my local area, the local people support their police very, very strongly. The police really go beyond the call of duty in supporting their community. I would like to commend the bill to the House.