



Speech by

JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK, MP

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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POLICE AWARDS, GOLD COAST

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (10.06 p.m.): I recently had the pleasure of attending the south-eastern region police service medals and awards ceremony. This was held at the Ashmore Police Citizens Youth Club. Present at the awards were Commissioner of Police Bob Atkinson, and Assistant Police Commissioner David Melville. A number of Surfers Paradise officers received awards. Officers receiving national medal and class were Sergeant Matthew Maloy, Senior Constable Paul Glock and Senior Constable David Joachim. An assistant commissioner's award for merit went to Inspector Jeff James for his exceptional work during the schoolies festival.

An assistant commissioner's certificate also went to Constable Deryck Taylor for his excellent work. Other recipients of assistant commissioners' certificates were Inspector Ken Fox, Senior Sergeant Bruce Tracey, Senior Sergeant Joe Joyce and Administration Officer Donna Wright. What this shows is the very good work that police officers on the Gold Coast and, in particular, in Surfers Paradise have been doing. It is also a credit to David Melville, who has also been doing very good work at Surfers Paradise Police Station since he came halfway through last year and said that he was determined to clean up the image of Surfers Paradise. His team on the Gold Coast does an outstanding job and they unfortunately do so under a great strain.

I say this as a follow-up to a contribution I made in my maiden speech a month ago. The Gold Coast and, in particular, Surfers Paradise work with too few officers for the job that needs to be done. We have up to five fewer police officers per 10,000 people than other northern centres. As one of the officers who received an award was rewarded for stellar work during schoolies, I feel it is apt to discuss police shortages. Schoolies is the main event along with Indy on the Surfers Paradise holiday calendar. These events, however, come along with weeks of holidays and long weekends every year. The point is that our population swells significantly at certain times of the year. Whilst we have hardworking officers, we need more to ensure the safety of local residents and holiday-makers alike.

Congratulations once again to those officers who received awards and well done to Assistant Commissioner David Melville and his team on some outstanding work.