



Speech by

## Peta-Kaye Croft

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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### BIGGERA WATERS POLICE BEAT

**Ms CROFT** (Broadwater—ALP) (9.13 pm): I am pleased to inform the House that on 4 September the minister for police, the Hon. Judy Spence, officially opened the Biggera Waters police beat. The official opening was attended by Assistant Commissioner David Melville, Superintendent Brett Pointing, officers from the Runaway Bay Police Station, including Senior Sergeant Murray Underwood and his wife, Suzanne, volunteers in policing and community group representatives.

The Biggera Waters police beat, at a cost of \$541,000, was announced in the 2005-06 state budget as part of a three-year \$10 million 2004 election commitment to build 25 new police beats across the state. Residents have long supported the creation of a police beat. The Biggera Waters police beat, now located in Ocean Street, is a terrific result for the area. It is just 500 metres away from the Biggera Waters State School and is close to local businesses and the Biggera Waters shopping centre.

Finding a suitable location for the police beat is an operational matter. A huge thanks must go to Senior Sergeant Murray Underwood for his outstanding efforts in finding a suitable premises. His stewardship of the Biggera Waters police beat has been fantastic.

Senior Constable Sharon Thompson and Constable Stephen Cook have been working at the police beat since its opening and will continue to do so until a permanent officer is appointed. These officers have been working closely with the Biggera Waters community to address issues such as road safety and general crime prevention. Their services are a welcome boost to the policing services in the region, as both Runaway Bay and Biggera Waters have experienced significant growth in recent years.

With its own marked police vehicle to respond to calls for service and conduct patrols in the community, this beat will boost the policing service already provided by the Runaway Bay Police Station. The Biggera Waters police beat is the first of five new police beats in our Gold Coast region, with properties in Jacobs Well, Arundel, Pacific Pines and Edens Landing all being refurbished.

The Beattie government is committed to improving community safety, and the 45 neighbourhood beats that have now been built across the state are helping officers develop strong community-police partnerships to further drive down crime rates. But that is not all. I am pleased to announce that another police beat was promised to the electorate of Broadwater. Funding has been committed, and I am confident that Senior Sergeant Murray Underwood will find another perfect location that will further improve policing in the area. I look forward to delivering on this commitment to the area.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate local ALP branch members Tom and Betty Harrison on recently celebrating their 50-year wedding anniversary. Congratulations, Tom and Betty.