



Speech by

**Peter Lawlor**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT**

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## **SOUTHPORT POLICE STATION**

**Mr LAWLOR** (Southport—ALP) (9.58 pm): Police received the keys to the new \$5.33 million Southport Police Station and moved into the new complex today. The new station will be operational during the two weeks it will take to relocate from the old police station, which is next door to the new complex, and the old station will then be demolished. It is interesting to note that the new station was designed in consultation with the Queensland Police Service and the Queensland Police Union, so I believe it will be a very user-friendly and practical building.

Following the occupation of the new building, a range of construction work will continue, including the demolition of the old station and construction on the old site of a new car park which will commence in August. The old station is actually a converted courthouse. It was an entirely unsuitable courthouse, in which I appeared many times, and an even more unsuitable police station, in which I did not appear many times, with a great deal of useless and unused space.

The cost of \$5.33 million is well under forecast estimates, and Southport now has a purpose-built facility which provides a 24-hour policing service which will serve the needs of the police division well into the future. The new station is equipped with a holding cell, two interview rooms equipped with electronic recording facilities, a major incident room, a secure front counter, a breath analysis room, a facility to store equipment and exhibits, and a dedicated intelligence room.

The Gold Coast has a fast-growing community which will be catered for by the new station, which has the capacity to accommodate up to 150 officers. The new station will greatly enhance the Police Service in their fight against crime with better operational resources, improved infrastructure and working conditions.

The new station remains adjacent to the Southport watch-house and the Southport courthouse. The minister and the Beattie government are committed to ensuring Queensland's police have the best possible infrastructure, resources and support to work with the community in fighting crime. Over the past three years the Beattie government has spent \$12.63 million on police capital works on the Gold Coast, including a new police district in Coomera and new police beats at Arundel, Biggera Waters, Jacobs Well, Edens Landing and Pacific Pines. We are trying at the moment to find a new location for the Surfers Paradise police beat. The number of police positions on the Gold Coast have increased from 503 when the National-Liberal coalition was last in government in 1998 to 689 today—an increase of 37 per cent.

With regard to the Arundel police beat, this represents an almost \$400,000 investment by the Beattie government to strengthen community policing relationships in the area and improve community safety. The department has purchased a two-storey, four-bedroom house in Napper Road, and the police beat will be operational this year and will be a great support to local police in their fight against crime by providing additional infrastructure and operational resources as well as an extra police officer. I commend the minister on these two important projects.