



Speech by

Ted Malone

MEMBER FOR MIRANI

Hansard Wednesday, 9 August 2006

SARINA POLICE STATION

Mr MALONE (Mirani—NPA) (10.17 pm): The combined Sarina Police Station and courthouse has had a long history in terms of its operational effectiveness since it was built in the early sixties. The combined unit of the courthouse and the police station with the utilisation of joint facilities sometimes compromised the privacy of the clients of the courthouse and impacted on the operation of the police station.

When I was elected in 1994 I promised that I would endeavour to try to get a new police station. In 1996 I was finally able to convince our minister at that time, Russell Cooper, to actually put money aside for the new police station. In 1998 the new Labor government shifted that money to the North Mackay Police Station, as the member would well know. During that time the police station continued to be downgraded in terms of its facilities. Indeed, only two years ago the police union in one of its journals judged the Sarina Police Station to be the 'dump of the month'. It was really past time for refurbishment. In July this year I was pleased to be with the minister, Judy Spence, for the opening of the new Sarina Police Station, and a magnificent facility it is. Also present were Bob Atkinson, the commissioner; Garry Harland, the Mackay superintendent; Dave Parnell, who is the officer in charge; John Black, the senior constable; Brian Cumming from the traffic office; Tony Lee from CIB; and a number of constables who man the station.

I was pleased to be with the mayor when the station was opened. It is a magnificent facility. The next step we look forward to is the 24-hour operation of the police station at Sarina. This has come after a long period. It will certainly be a great asset to the community. We have seen the separation of the courthouse from the police station. As I speak, the refurbishment of the courthouse in Sarina is taking place. That will be an asset to the Sarina community. The Sarina community, like all other communities around Mackay, is growing very substantially. The refurbished courthouse and the magnificent new police station have come not before time. They will be appreciated not only by the residents but also by the police officers and others who have to work in those facilities.