



Speech by

## Hon. Neil Roberts

MEMBER FOR NUDGEE

Hansard Wednesday, 19 August 2009

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### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### Gold Coast, Police Resources

**Hon. NS ROBERTS** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services) (10.19 am): I rise to add to my response to the member for Gregory's question yesterday about policing on the Gold Coast. The gall of the National Party to criticise police resourcing, particularly on the Gold Coast! When the National Party was last in government it provided one police officer for every 507 people in Queensland. Under this government it is one for every 427 people, keeping pace with the national average. Our government has given a commitment to maintain state-wide police-to-population ratios at equal to or better than the national average, and we have trashed the National Party's record on this issue. This term, at least another 600 police will be provided across the state.

Police resources have dramatically increased on the Gold Coast under a Labor government. There are currently around 820 officers in the Gold Coast police district. How many were there when the Nationals were last in power? Five hundred and thirty! There have been 293 extra officers placed on the Gold Coast under Labor, and the record of the National Party—293 less—was achieved at a time when the National Party dominated seats on the Gold Coast, including a Premier.

Thanks to the Labor government, funding for the number of police on the Gold Coast has increased by 54 per cent since the Nationals were last in power. The National Party record of supporting police on the Gold Coast is a joke compared to the resources that Labor has put into the region. In the last few years the government has provided a new police station at Surfers Paradise, a new police station about to open at Robina, new police district headquarters about to open in Coomera and major upgrades to the Mudgeeraba station. We have also made a commitment to fund a major refurbishment of the Burleigh Heads Police Station.

The member for Gregory also complained about the lack of a specialised Drug Squad on the Gold Coast. The member failed to mention that the Gold Coast has a substantial allocation of 114 investigative detectives in the CIB branches at Burleigh and Surfers Paradise. These officers investigate and prosecute all manner of crimes, including drug offences, with the support of the Brisbane based Drug Squad and Task Force Hydra, the specialist outlaw motorcycle gang unit. The member knows these specialist squads target resources across the state as required in support of local CIB detectives. The National Party and the member for Gregory scaremongering yesterday is just another example of how the National Party continues to undermine public confidence in the great work being performed by police officers on the Gold Coast and indeed across the state.