



Speech by

Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Hansard Tuesday, 2 June 2009

POLICE RESOURCES

Ms BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (9.08 pm): I rise this evening to speak on behalf of the residents of Mudgeeraba who are demanding an increase in local police and a 24-hour police station that has the counter manned. Last sitting a petition with over 2,500 signatures for more police and increased counter services in Mudgeeraba and Nerang was tabled in parliament by the shadow minister for police, Vaughan Johnson, on my behalf as the principal petitioner.

The state Labor government and the police minister have consistently misled the public for too long by claiming that Mudgeeraba and Nerang police stations operate 24 hours a day when the counter service only operates from 8 am until 4 pm. This petition is not about taking a uniformed officer off the beat; it is about more police for our area and about the public perception that no-one is home at the station after 4 pm and no-one answers the phone after 4 pm. Residents would be far more likely to report criminal activity if they knew they were contacting their own station. Law and order is a huge issue in the Mudgeeraba electorate, which is evidenced by the number of signatures collected.

On the eve of the 2006 state election, this Labor government promised a new police station in Reedy Creek, which was quickly claimed by the former member in the dying days of the election campaign. Not only is the police station not in the electorate of Mudgeeraba; this station will be policing half of the Gold Coast, including Burleigh Heads, Varsity Lakes, Robina and Reedy Creek on both the eastern and western sides of the M1.

The state average of police per resident is one per 434, and on the Gold Coast it is one per 628. In the electorate of Mudgeeraba, with 28,000 residents and currently 24 police shared between the Nerang and Mudgeeraba stations, the ratio is more like one per 1,166. The minister confirmed our suspicions in the *Gold Coast Sun* on Wednesday, 27 May 2009 that the 24-officer station will be staffed by 14 officers who will be relocated from Palm Beach, Broadbeach and Mudgeeraba stations.

Unlike the Labor Party, the LNP has a tough-on-crime attitude. Labor is soft on crime, soft on hooning, soft on graffiti and has failed to stand up for the residents and the police to provide a safer community for Mudgeeraba. The residents of Mudgeeraba and surrounding areas are sick and tired of being treated like second-class citizens, and this latest attempt to dupe the electorate is just another slap in the face to locals, who have had enough of the thin blue line being stretched along with more empty promises from this Labor state government.