




Speech by

Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Hansard Thursday, 25 August 2011

COOMERA, POLICE RESOURCES

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.57 pm): This Labor government is weak on organised crime and indeed on crime of any sort. One of the impediments to fighting crime is resources, or lack of resources. Take the Coomera police district, for example. Here we have a police district with one police officer for every 1,150 or so residents, compared to the state average of around one police officer for every 350 residents.

If you were a crime figure, where would you be likely to 'hide'? Would you hide in an area that has an abundance of police? Or would you hide where the police are overworked and underresourced? Welcome to the Coomera police district. On the numbers, the workload for officers in the Coomera police district is around three times the average in the state. I believe that our officers are the best of the best, but they can only do so much.

The start of the solution is something that I have been calling for for quite some time—a tactical crime squad. A full tactical crime squad comprises 14 officers. A tactical crime squad is relieved of the day-to-day duties that general duties police are required to undertake. They are out there, in the marketplace, being more proactive, piecing together the intelligence needed to attack organised crime organisations as well as making life uncomfortable for the petty criminals that prey on our community. These criminals prey on the Coomera police district community in particular because they know we are light on police numbers.

The police minister has announced the formation of a tactical crime squad for the Coomera police district, and for that we are grateful. But why go halfway? Why allocate seven officers when it is clear, with the spike in crime on the northern Gold Coast, that we need a full squad now?

We have the resources—the minister said as much on Tuesday. He said that a number of the new intake have been allocated and then he said there are 14 officers still to be allocated. Minister, I can tell you where we need at least seven of those officers to be allocated. We all know that the Coomera police district is the most underresourced police district in Queensland. Indeed, it would seem that the Coomera police district has something like 20 per cent of the workload and only 10 to 15 per cent of the resources. If we want to fight crime, then let us have the resources allocated to get the maximum bang for our buck. Let us allocate a full 14-officer tactical crime squad to the Coomera police district now.

(Time expired)