




Speech by

Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Hansard Thursday, 13 October 2011

COOMERA, POLICE RESOURCES

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (3.06 pm): Since coming into this place some 2½ years ago, I have systematically and regularly gone out to the shopping centres and the library in my electorate to talk to the locals. During these visits, as well as visits to schools, Neighbourhood Watch meetings, chambers of commerce meetings and other community based groups, I have taken the time to listen to locals about what concerns them. I have encouraged the completion of survey forms that provide written proof of what I hear. I also encourage people to go to my website and complete the online survey form there.

Based on the survey results, the No. 1 priority is policing and law and order issues—indeed, 80 per cent of respondents selected police and law and order issues and most of those select this issue as their first or second priority. I have spoken many times about the imbalance in police numbers in the Coomera police district versus police numbers across the state. Coomera has one police officer for around 1,150 residents, compared to one police officer for around 350 residents across Queensland.

In addition, the Coomera police district has something like 20 per cent of the workload and around 10 to 15 per cent of the resources. This lack of resources is known to criminals and encourages them to target the area. In other words, the lack of resources is both the cause and the effect. Criminals know that Coomera is underresourced and therefore they target the area. In turn, their activities add to the workload of the Coomera district police, putting further pressure on resources. I call on the government to focus more effort on resolving this inequality.

The evidence is there, including a petition sponsored by the member for Albert—a petition that I have publicly supported by sending a link to all of my contacts and in the media. The petition calls for the construction of a 24-hour police station in Ormeau to take pressure off police stations at Coomera and Beenleigh. It says that the additional police presence would make the local area a safer place to live and work. The statistics tell us that we are underresourced; 80 per cent of the people tell us that policing is their No. 1 concern, and the member for Albert and I recognise it. We both call on the government to give us the police resources we desperately need.