




Speech by

Christine Smith

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Hansard Thursday, 16 February 2012

WILSON, MR P

 **Mrs SMITH** (Burleigh—ALP) (3.09 pm): Two weeks ago I attended a farewell for Assistant Commissioner Paul Wilson of the Queensland Police Service who has been transferred from the Gold Coast to Toowoomba. Having represented the electorate of Burleigh since February 2001, I have had the opportunity to meet, and subsequently work in partnership with, a wide range of people including a number of police officers. Today I want to relate some of my personal experiences involving Assistant Commissioner Paul Wilson. Whilst they relate specifically to my electorate, I am sure that they are reflective of his overall approach to policing.

Mr Wilson instigated the creation of the Burleigh Police Community Consultative Committee which has become a very successful forum for local police and the community to exchange information. I found Paul Wilson to be an officer who would make time to speak to a member of parliament or a member of the public, treating each one with equal respect. Recently I had the opportunity to attend the opening ceremony for the refurbishment of the Burleigh Heads Police Station, which is the base for police investigators who work within the southern Gold Coast. Over Paul's time in command of the south-eastern police region, I have had extensive meetings with him as part of the processes relating to the refurbishment of the Burleigh Heads Police Station and the planning and development of the Burleigh Heads Police Beat. The Burleigh Heads Police Beat will remain his legacy for Burleigh. When he first suggested it I thought, 'This will never get off the ground,' but I underestimated his tenacity. While we have not yet turned the first sod, I know it is not too far away. From our first meeting I was taken by his larger-than-life attitude. He was that old-fashioned—and I mean that in the nicest possible way—policeman, direct in manner but with a compassionate heart. I take this opportunity to thank Assistant Commissioner Paul Wilson for the courtesy extended to me personally and for his work as the commander of the policing community within the south-eastern police region. Toowoomba's gain is the Gold Coast's loss.