Question on Notice
No. 1472
Asked on 7 September 2011

MR HOPPER asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services (MR ROBERTS)—

QUESTION:

As we have had several enquiries regarding the irregular opening hours at the Oakey Police Station and it is not always open at the advertised opening times—

(1) Why are the current opening hours of the Oakey Police Station not strictly adhered to?

(2) Will these hours be extended due to the growth in the Oakey township and surrounding areas?

ANSWER:

(1) The office hours of the Oakey Police Station are 8.30am to 1.00pm and 2.00pm to 3.30pm Monday to Friday. Occasionally variations to the designated office hours occur when the station administration officer takes recreation or sick leave or is undertaking training.

During these periods every effort is made to ensure a police officer remains at the station to attend to public enquiries during office hours. However, this may not always be the case, because of the need to attend to calls for service and other operational requirements.

Members of the public who attend the station outside the times of normal counter service are advised, via a sign placed at the entry to the station, that police are on duty and provides relevant contact numbers for obtaining police assistance.

The Oakey Police Station's telephone line is diverted to the Toowoomba Communications Centre which has direct radio contact with Oakey Division officers on patrol.

It should be noted that Oakey police officers are also provided with support from other areas of the Toowoomba District including officers from district units such as the Criminal Investigation Branch, Child Protection and Investigation Unit, Traffic Branch and Tactical Crime Squad.

I can assure the member and his constituents that if an urgent situation is reported, police will respond immediately.

(2) The Oakey Station front counter is open to the public 30 hours a week and there are no plans to extend these hours. While, the Queensland Police Service has not received any complaints regarding the office hours, the Toowoomba District Office will continue to monitor policing needs in the Oakey Police Division to ensure an appropriate level of policing services is maintained in the area.