

Question on Notice
No. 376
Asked on 16 April 2024

MS S BOLTON ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Police Academy lacking sufficient capacity to train all new Queensland Police Officer recruits at the same time—

Will the Minister advise what will be undertaken to expand capacity as well increase the number of trainers required to facilitate this?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) is currently undertaking the largest recruitment drive in its history to deliver 1,450 new police officers, in addition to the further 500 new police officers announced on 30 April 2024.

With the help of \$87.5M announced by the Queensland Government in April 2023 to fund marketing and offer a range of incentives and initiatives, the number of recruit applications has reached historic highs in 2024 and the foreseeable future for police recruiting is delivering upon plans. The QPS advise that as at 7 May 2024 there are 684 recruits-in training and over 2,240 in the recruitment pipeline.

With an ambitious schedule of recruit intakes in both Brisbane and Townsville planned, the QPS advises that plans are in place to the end of 2025 that are capable of delivering a combined police officer and recruit headcount in excess of the GEC target.

The Queensland Police Academy operations have been scaled-up to meet the schedule of recruit intakes, with additional classroom space created in the Oxley campus and experienced officers seconded from other areas to boost instructor numbers.

An extension of operating hours at the Bob Atkinson Operational Skills Centre has enabled firearms and skills training for in-service personnel to be offered on weekends and evenings. Additional skills training is also being delivered locally across south-east Queensland by district education and training offices.

The QPS has ensured its capacity to deliver world-class recruit training has kept pace with the historic surge in recruiting.