

Question on Notice
No. 632
Asked on 15 June 2004

MS NELSON-CARR asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE)-

QUESTION:

- (1) Now that the Police Service has completed an environmental scan in the Townsville suburbs of Vincent and Heatley, what area will be covered by the Vincent Police Beat?
- (2) What progress is being made in the search for a suitable property in which to house the Vincent Police Beat?

ANSWER:

- (1) The Vincent/Heatley Police Beat is one of eight new police beats to be established in 2004-05, as part of a Beattie Government Smart State Building Fund commitment to establish 25 new beats over the next three years. \$367,000 was allocated in the 2004-05 Budget for the purchase and fit-out of the Vincent/Heatley Police Beat, which is listed as a priority.

A Police Beat scan of the Vincent/Heatley area was recently carried out and details are currently being considered in order to establish the most appropriate area for the Vincent/Heatley Police Beat. The identification of a premise for the new Police Beat will help finalise the work undertaken in the environmental scan which involved assessing the demographic trends, socio-economic composition of the area and local crime statistics.

As part of the establishment of the new beat, a senior Police Officer from the Queensland Police Service Crime Prevention Unit was in Townsville this week, over-viewing the results of the environmental scan and progress of the beat.

- (2) Approximately seven properties have been assessed and three have been physically inspected by Police. In addition to this, discussions are presently taking place with the Department of Housing in relation to a suitable residence in the area for conversion to a police beat office. In addition, a senior officer from the Queensland Police Service Property and Facilities Branch was in Townsville this week to meet with local police and other agencies to discuss and explore housing options for the new beat.

The residence, whether it be for rent or purchase, must comply with a number of criteria, including height requirements and the provision of disabled access. The Property and Facilities Branch of the Queensland Police Service, together with the State Police Beats Coordinator will consider all options available within the budget provided, following advice from that department.

Upon identification of a suitable residence, it is incumbent upon the Police Service to address town-planning issues. The time frame for this process is dependent upon the support of the local government authorities, the conformity to the council definition of "Home Occupation" or "Home Activity" and council requirements of a Material Change of Use or Ministerial Designation of the property.

Fit-out of the Neighbourhood Police Beat will commence when the premises have been acquired and town planning issues have been addressed.