

**Question on Notice  
No. 259  
Asked on Tuesday 7 March 2006**

MS MILLER asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (Ms SPENCE) -

**QUESTION:**

With reference to Neighbourhood Watch Groups in the electorate of Bundamba that are committed to the prevention of crime in their local areas---

What support does the Queensland Police Service provide for these groups?

**ANSWER:**

The Bundamba Electorate falls within the Ipswich Police District with the electorate predominantly contained within the Goodna Police Division. A small part of the electorate falls within the Booval Police Division. There are nine Neighbourhood Watch Groups in the Bundamba electorate.

Ipswich Police provide the highest possible standard of support for Neighbourhood Watch in the district within the limits of staff and material resources available. Eight of the nine Neighbourhood Watch Groups in the Bundamba Electorate currently have a police officer designated to liaise with members of the individual groups.

The officers regularly attend the individual group meetings. They provide information to the groups on crime issues, traffic matters and other occurrences in the local communities. These officers provide advice on crime prevention issues such as home security, personal safety and fraud.

The Ipswich District Crime Prevention Co-ordinator chairs a bi-monthly meeting of Neighbourhood Watch Groups in the District to assist in networking and sharing of ideas. Police provide training to committee members to assist in the effective running of the individual groups. Police also assist and support residents who are seeking to start new Neighbourhood Watch Groups.

In October 2005, Ipswich District Police hosted the 2005 Neighbourhood Watch State Rally which was attended by 350 delegates from all over Queensland. Hosting the State Rally at Ipswich provided local Neighbourhood Watch members with the opportunity to participate and share ideas with members from around the State.

Hooning is the most common complaint of the Neighbourhood Watch Groups in the Bundamba Electorate. Ipswich Police have increased the number of hoon seizures in the District from 23 in the 2004 calendar year to 47 in the 2005 calendar year. The total number of officer hours spent on traffic operations for the same period has increased from 8,112 hours to 10,254 hours.

Prosecution rates for drink driving offences in that period have increased from 840 to 983. Prosecutions for unlicensed driving have increased from 360 to 667. There has been an increase in prosecutions for disqualified driving from 341 to 651.

Police responded to concerns raised by members of the community regarding behaviour at the Bundamba Railway Station and nearby streets. Booval Police and the Redbank Railway Squad continually conduct patrols of the area issuing numerous notices for trespassing on railway property. Safe City Cameras managed by Ipswich City Council focus on problem streets to assist in identifying offences and offenders.

Operation Bunney was developed and implemented to respond to graffiti offences in the Ipswich District. In 2003/2004 there were 245 reported graffiti offences, or 148 reported offences per 100,000 persons which have increased to 310 reported graffiti offences, or 182 reported offences per 100,000 persons (rate increase of approximately 23%).

The operation involves a partnership with Ipswich City Council and Education Queensland focusing on reducing graffiti within the district. Approximately 30 offenders and a number of different groups have been identified. A forum with Ipswich City Council and local school principals was conducted on 1 March 2006 to identify strategies to reduce graffiti. Strategies include the following:

- reducing the availability of graffiti instruments to young people;
- using Police Liaison Officers to form partnerships with community groups whose members are involved in graffiti; and
- dedicating a Juvenile Aid Bureau investigator to investigate this type of offence.

Police response to crime in the District has netted positive results with respect to Break and Enter and Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle offences.

The Ipswich District 2004/2005 records indicate that reported rates for Break and Enter Offences reduced by 2.3% as compared with the 2003/2004 statistical year. Reported Rates for Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicles in the Ipswich District reduced by 3.7% for the same period.

Police support for Neighbourhood Watch in the Bundamba Electorate has been clearly evidenced by ongoing contact and communication with the community and active response to community concerns.