

**Question on Notice
No. 266
Asked on Tuesday 7 March 2006**

Mr HOOLIHAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE) -

QUESTION:

What benefits did a Queensland Water Police presence play in any recent operations in the Keppel region?

ANSWER:

Officers attached to the Yeppoon Water Police are currently conducting operation 'Summer Safe' which is part of a state-wide campaign in conjunction with Maritime Safety Queensland. The operation primarily focuses on random breath testing boat operators on the water.

I am advised on the weekend of 18-19 February 2006 the Yeppoon Water Police conducted Random Breath Tests on boat operators entering or leaving Rosslyn Bay Boat Harbour.

Over the course of the weekend, Water Police conducted 166 Random Breath Tests with no drink drivers detected. This reflects an excellent level of compliance in the area. Police issued seven marine infringement notices, predominantly for operators not carrying sufficient safety equipment on their vessels.

This operation is part of the continuing effort by Queensland Water Police to keep our waterways safe and was the seventh operation conducted by Yeppoon Water Police since Christmas 2005.

Operation Talisman Sabre was a joint operation involving QPS and Department of Defence personnel providing policing services to multi-national defence force members whilst performing training exercises in the Shoalwater Bay Defence Zone. During the operation, Yeppoon Water Police arrested the master of the Greenpeace Vessel VEGA for breaching the military exclusion zone.

In April 2005, officers performed Operation Safetow, a joint operation with Queensland Transport staff which targeted the roadworthiness of boat trailers entering or leaving the Rosslyn Bay Harbour complex.

All four officers attached to the Yeppoon Water Police are trained in search and rescue techniques and are utilised for both marine and land based searches. 69 search and rescue incidents were co-ordinated by water police from Yeppoon in 2005.

Six joint operations with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority were conducted during 2005 targetting zoning enforcement and reef compliance. During those operations criminal offences including drugs, weapons and other offences were detected.

During 2006 Yeppoon Water Police Officers have performed 22 vessel patrols and intercepted 234 boats, resulting in 22 infringements being detected within the Keppel region.

The high profile of the Yeppoon Water Police in patrolling Central Queensland waterways is having a positive effect in preventing boating accidents and fatalities, thus ensuring an enjoyable recreation for thousands of Queenslanders.