

**Question on Notice
No. 294
Asked on 7 March 2007**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the rapid population growth that has been occurring and is scheduled to continue to occur in the Palmwoods Police District – What planning does the Police Service have for increasing the staff and resources for the district?

ANSWER:

The number of police officers allocated to the Palmwoods Police Division accords with the Queensland Police Service's Staffing Allocation Model which is used for determining police staffing allocations across Queensland. The Model is continually revised and updated on the basis of assessments of relative workloads and police staffing needs of all areas as identified through crime, population and traffic statistics and various other service-delivery factors common to all communities.

A police officer is available on-call 24 hours per day. Further, police from neighbouring police divisions at Nambour, Maroochydore, Landsborough and Maleny are available to assist officers in the Palmwoods Police Division.

Additionally, officers from the Sunshine Coast Police District: Traffic Branch; Tactical Crime Squad; Criminal Investigation Branch; Child Protection and Investigation Unit; Dog Squad; and Scenes of Crime Office actively support policing in the Palmwoods Police Division.

The Assistant Commissioner, North Coast Police Region considers that the current level of police resources in the Palmwoods Police Division is appropriate and adequate to deliver the high level of service that the public expects and deserves.

The Assistant Commissioner also gives an assurance that the resourcing of Palmwoods Police Division will continue to be monitored and revised as part of annual planning processes to ensure a high level of service is maintained.

Since this Government was elected in 1998 we have increased police numbers by approximately 300 each year and have succeeded in raising the Queensland police to population to better than the national average. As a result of this commitment the number of police officers has increased from 6800 in 1998, to over 9400 today.

The 2006-07 budget allows for an extra 350 front line first response general duties police officers which will increase policing numbers to a minimum of 9728 by September, increase of nearly 3000 since this Government came to office.

The Beattie Government has been and remains strongly committed to increasing police numbers and supporting the Queensland Police Service and the Queensland community. This has resulted in a record \$1.3 billion operating budget for the Service, an increase of \$121.9 million or 10.3% from the previous budget.