

**Question on Notice
No. 875
Asked on 6 June 2007**

Mr Messenger asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE)—

QUESTION:

With reference to her commitment to CCTV upgrades for all watchhouses across the State—

How many have actually been installed and at what locations since February 2007?

ANSWER:

As a part of the Queensland Police Service Watch House Upgrade Program, upgrades to watch houses are funded in an ongoing basis as a part of the Queensland Police Service's capital works budget. In the last 10 years, this Government has spent \$144 Million on upgrading these facilities. In 2005/2006 \$1.493M was spent on watch house upgrades, in 2006/2007 the figure was \$2.3 Million. In this year's capital works budget has allocated \$500,000.

I believe the Member is referring to the announcement on the 6 February 2007 by the Premier and myself. This announcement included a commitment to fund the installation of CCTV digital recording equipment in all custodial areas in police stations in Aboriginal Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) Communities within 12 months. This will complement the CCTV in the watch houses which already exists in these communities. In fact, all Watch houses in this State that accommodate prisoners for more than 24 hours have CCTV surveillance.

The Beattie Government allocated \$1.5 million in this year's State Budget for this project.

An audit of the Woorabinda, Palm Island and Aurukun watch houses has been completed and costing has been finalised for each of these facilities. The CCTV upgrade at these locations is expected to begin shortly.

I am also pleased to advise the Queensland Police Service has also finished auditing all the other DOGIT communities as a part of this commitment.

In relation to surveillance in all watch houses, the Police Commissioner has undertaken to conduct an audit in conjunction with the Police Union to determine the extent to which these facilities fall short of their expectations. Part of this audit will identify any cost involved in upgrading the facilities and the extent to which it can be absorbed as a part of the existing watch house upgrade program or whether further funding as a part of the budget process is required.

I am advised the Police Service is still progressing this audit and I look forward to updating the house soon.