

Question on Notice
No. 891
Asked on 6 June 2007

MR LINGARD asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE)—

QUESTION:

How many uniformed police are permanently based at each of the Deed of Grant in Trust Aboriginal Communities around the State (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

As a part of this years State Budget the Beattie Government announced over \$9.2 million dollars funding for policing in indigenous communities. This funding will provide a new police aircraft to patrol the Torres Strait, improve watch house security and house more police officers in Indigenous communities. This Government has provided \$2.6 million for the initial set up of the new Police Air Wing to be based at Horn Island. A further \$2.3 million will be delivered over the next four years for on-going operation and maintenance.

The Queensland Police Service has identified the Britten-Norman Islander as the most suitable aircraft for Torres Strait conditions. This aircraft can carry 10 people and its short landing and take-off capabilities make it ideal for islands in the Torres Strait with shorter runways.

The budget also provides \$1.5 million in 2007-08 to fund the Beattie Government's commitment to install or upgrade CCTV in all public areas of watchhouse in Indigenous communities by February 2008. Also \$2.8 million dollars for the construction of residential accommodation for police at Cooktown and Weipa has been provided.

Furthermore the Commissioner of Police and I recently announced that the number of police providing services to Indigenous communities will be boosted by 29 additional officers with 26 officers to be posted to Indigenous communities and 3 officers to be allocated to Murgon Police Division which provides a 24-hour operational police capability to the nearby Cherbourg community.

Details of uniformed police numbers specifically providing policing services to each of the Deed of Grant in Trust Aboriginal Communities and the increases in numbers to be implemented by the Police Service are indicated in the table at Attachment One. These increases will further improve the excellent police to population ratios in these communities.

Police Numbers at Deed of Grant in Trust Aboriginal Communities

Community	Police Region/Division	Current Uniform Approved Strength	Increase	#New Uniform Approved Strength
	Far Northern Region			
Aurukun	Aurukun Division	8	2	10
Hope Vale	Hope Vale Division	2	2	4
Kowanyama	Kowanyama Division	8	2	10
Lockhart River	Lockhart River Division	2	2	4
Mapoon, Napranum	Weipa Division	9	-	9
Northern Peninsula Bamaga, Injinoo, Seisia, Umagico	Bamaga Division	6	4	10
Pormpuraaw	Pormpuraaw Division	2	2	4
Wujal Wujal	Wujal Wujal Division	2	-	2
Yarrabah	Yarrabah Division	8	2	10
	Northern Region			
Doomadgee	Doomadgee Division	9	1	10
Mornington Island	Mornington Island Division	6	4	10
Palm Island	Palm Island Division	16	-	16
	Central Region			
Woorabinda	Woorabinda Division	5	5	10
	North Coast Region			
Cherbourg	Cherbourg Division	7	-	7

Plus 3 extra officers allocated to the Murgon Police Division which services the Cherbourg community