

**Question on Notice
No. 1692
Asked on 11 November 2008**

MR SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport (MS SPENCE)—

QUESTION:

- (1) What was the funding allocated to Task Force Hydra in 2007-08 and 2008-09 (reported separately)?
- (2) How many police officers have been allocated to Task Force Hydra in 2007-08 and 2008-09 (reported separately)?
- (3) How many support staff are permanently allocated to Task Force Hydra in 2007-08 and 2008-09 (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

The Bligh Government is committed to the fight against organised crime. This includes providing sufficient resources to the Queensland Police Service to target major and organised crime groups.

Outlaw motorcycle gangs are an ongoing investigative and intelligence priority for the Queensland Police Service based on their known involvement in criminal activity and their propensity for violence within Australia and internationally.

The outlaw Motor Cycle Gang Taskforce- Codename Hydra is responsible for directing Queensland Police Service strategies aimed at disrupting and dismantling outlaw motorcycle gangs in Queensland.

These strategies include ongoing liaison with interstate law enforcement agencies in relation to the policing of outlaw motorcycle gangs and the Australian Crime Commission's Outlaw Motorcycle Gang National Intelligence Task Force.

Strategic assessments of Queensland-based outlaw motorcycle gangs and members, within the national and international context, are conducted to provide tactical, operational and strategic direction utilising overt and covert investigative methodologies and other contemporary policing techniques. Partnerships with the Australian Crime Commission and Queensland's Crime and Misconduct Commission support these strategies.

The total funding for the Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Taskforce for the 2007-08 and 2008-09 financial years was \$1,207,000.

This does not include the salaries of the officers assigned to the Taskforce.

In 2007-08 there were 18 police officers assigned to Task Force.

The number of officers assigned to the Taskforce increased by 4 to 22 for 2008-09.

Six permanent support staff positions were assigned to the Task Force in 2007-08. The same number of such positions are assigned to the Task Force for 2008-09.