

Question on Notice
No. 545
Asked on 17 April 2008

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the statewide roll out of Tasers—

- (1) How long will it take to fully roll out Tasers statewide?
- (2) How much funding has been committed to the Taser roll-out in 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 (each year reported separately)?
- (3) Is her department investigating cheaper alternatives to Tasers, such as the Stinger product and, if so, why?

ANSWER:

In February this year I announced there would be a staged roll-out of Tasers to first response officers once the Taser trial is completed in July 2008. As part of this process the Queensland Police Service (QPS) is currently at market seeking to establish a long-term arrangement with a company for the supply of a suitable type of Conducted Energy Device.

Senior police have also been developing an implementation strategy to address issues relating to the general introduction of this type of device for use by first response officers. This strategy involves issues such as:

- refining of policy for future use of the devices;
- development of suitable initial and ongoing training for all operational officers in the use of the devices;
- accountability measures to monitor and overview use;
- development of suitably designed storage for the devices; and
- addressing issues associated with the carriage of the devices and other items required to be carried by officers such as OC spray, handcuffs, radios, firearms and ammunition.

The initial training of officers in the appropriate use of the devices needs to be balanced against the requirements for the adequate provision of service delivery to the community. Officers also are required to undertake ongoing essential training, such as training in the use of firearms, Operational Skills and Tactics and the QPRIME computer system. These training requirements need to be taken into consideration in the roll-out plan to ensure service delivery to the community is not compromised.

The QPS is committed to having suitably trained officers with access to this type of weapon in each police division, throughout the State, within the first 12 months of the roll-out.

Funding for the State-wide roll-out will be sourced from within the budget provided by this Government to the QPS in each financial year. The roll-out plan and associated costings are currently under development by the implementation team. The QPS is currently evaluating tenders for the provision of Conducted Energy Devices. The cost of these devices is considered as a part of the evaluation of the tenders.

The QPS is required to comply with the requirements of the State Procurement Policy when carrying out procurement activities. The Policy delivers benefits for Government, suppliers and the community through the commitment to three objectives: advancing Government priorities, seeking value for money and purchasing with probity and accountability.

As required by the State Procurement Policy, long-term supply arrangements for the QPS are established via a formal Invitation to Offer process.

In February this year the QPS released an Invitation to Offer for the provision of Conducted Energy Devices. The QPS is currently evaluating the tenders received to determine an appropriate supplier.