

**Question on Notice
No. 1168
11 June 2010**

MS SIMPSON asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services (MR ROBERTS)—

QUESTION:

With reference to police stations on the Sunshine Coast—

Will the Minister advise (a) what the approved number of police officers is for each station, (b) the actual strength and (c) how many vacancies there are currently in each of the stations (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

The Bligh Government continues to inject record amounts of funding into policing in Queensland. In 2010-11, this Government has provided the Queensland Police Service with \$1.816 billion to fight crime and help keep Queensland safe. This is an increase of \$110 million, or 6.5%, over the 2009-10 budget, which was also a record allocation. This is further proof of this Government's strong commitment to law and order and protecting Queenslanders. The funding will provide more effective policing services to the community through additional police officers, new and upgraded police facilities and equipment, better technology to fight crime, and improvements to road safety.

Increasing police numbers across Queensland continues to be a high priority for this Government. The Bligh Government has committed to increasing police numbers further with 600 new police to be inducted by the end of this term.

The number of police officers has increased under the Queensland Labor Government by over 3,600 – from 6,800 officers in June 1998 to 10,407 officers at 1 June 2010 – an increase of more than 53 per cent.

The Bligh Government is committed to keeping Queensland's police to population ratio at or better than the national average. There has been a steady increase in the number of police officers per head of population since 30 June 1998, when the State's police-to-population ratio was 1:507. The estimated police-to-population ratio in Queensland at 1 June 2010 was 1:431.

Since 1 July 1998, the approved police strength for the Sunshine Coast Police District has increased from 263 to 454 - an increase of 191 positions. The actual police strength of the Sunshine Coast Police District is currently 19 police officers above its approved police strength, with an actual strength of 473 officers. The police staffing numbers for the Sunshine Coast Police District at 1 June 2010 are shown in the attached table.

The variance between the actual and approved strength of a police division is the most appropriate and accurate measure of the number of vacancies in that division. In these terms, vacancies currently exist in the following divisions: Landsborough (1), Maleny (2), Palmwoods (1), and Pomona (1). The approved police strength of Maleny station has recently been increased by two positions, from two to four police officers. Transfer at level opportunities for Maleny were recently advertised in the *Police Gazette*.

Vacancies at smaller stations are offset by officers who are temporarily deployed from larger stations to relieve, pending the appointment of a permanent officer. These types of positions are subject to a merit based selection or transfer at level process.

The Queensland Police Service continually reviews police staffing allocations throughout the State as part of its annual planning and budgetary processes. These annual reviews include

assessments of population and crime trends (including in the Sunshine Coast District) to ensure that police numbers are kept at appropriate levels in all communities. Where a vacancy is exists, or is forecast to occur at a later time, the Police Service advertises such positions and aslso ensures an adequate number of recruits are trained to fill vacant positions.

The Bligh Government will continue to invest in policing resources within the rapidly growing communities of Queensland to ensure the safety and amenity of those communities into the future.

ATTACHMENT

Sunshine Coast Police District	Approved Police Strength	Actual Police Strength	Variance + above / - below
Beerwah Division	14	15	+1
Caloundra Division	33	34	+1
Coolum Division	21	21	0
Cooroy Division	5	5	0
Eumundi Division	2	2	0
Kawana Waters Division	22	26	+4
Kenilworth Division	1	1	0
Landsborough Division	8	7	-1
Maleny Division	4	2	-2
Maroochydore Division	87	96	+9
Nambour Division	27	30	+3
Noosa Heads Division	34	41	+7
Palmwoods Division	2	1	-1
Pomona Division	4	3	-1
Sippy Downs Division	11	11	0
District Functions (including CIB, CPIU, Traffic, Tactical Crime, Water Police and other units)	179	178	-1
Sunshine Coast Police District Total	454	473	+19