Question on Notice No. 1983 Asked on 6 October 2010

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent increase in staffing numbers at the Maleny Police Station for which the community is very grateful—

Will the Minister advise when the station will be upgraded to more appropriately accommodate the new staffing structure?

ANSWER:

The Bligh Government continues to provide the Queensland Police Service with the funding and resources it needs to keep Queensland communities safe.

Under successive Labor Governments, there has been a steady increase in the number of police officers across the state. Since 1998, the number of police has increased by more than 3,600 – from 6,800 officers in June 1998 to 10,467 officers at 1 October 2010 – an increase of 54 percent.

Maleny Police Station is within the Sunshine Coast Police District. Since March 2007 the approved police strength of the Sunshine Coast District has increased from 418 to 454, an increase of 36 positions. The approved police strength of Maleny Station has recently been increased by two positions, from two to four police officers.

I am advised the current accommodation at Maleny Station is considered to be sufficient for the increased staffing allocation and the Police Service has not made any plans for the provision of a new or upgraded police complex at Maleny.

Nevertheless, the Police Service recognises that Maleny is a growing community and will continue to monitor and review staffing and accommodation needs at Maleny as part of annual planning and budgetary processes. Any future changes to police staffing levels and accommodation at Maleny will be determined through those processes.

Maleny Police continue to provide a professional and effective policing service. In the 2008–09 financial year, Maleny Police Division achieved an overall reduction in reported crime of 15.7 per cent per 100,000 population. This is indicative of the good work being performed by Maleny Police in serving their local community.