

**Question on Notice
No. 438
Asked on 11 March 2010**

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister detail (a) the criteria used to determine QPS staffing levels at Palmwoods, Maleny and Woodford and (b) the criteria needed to be met to achieve an increase in QPS staffing at Palmwoods, Maleny and Woodford?

ANSWER:

The Bligh Government is committed to ensuring the Queensland Police Service is provided with the resources it needs to maintain effective and responsive policing services in all areas of Queensland.

In 2009-10, this Government has provided a record \$1.706 billion to the Police Service to ensure police numbers continue to increase, and operational police are fully equipped to continue ensuring the safety and amenity of Queensland communities.

The Bligh Government has also committed to increasing police numbers during this term. The 2009-10 budget allocation has enabled the Queensland Police Service to appoint 203 new police positions this year, including 53 specialist traffic officers.

This Government is well on track to achieving its commitment to deliver 600 additional police officers by March 2012. By that time Queensland will have more than 10,600 police, which more than meets the Government's commitment to maintaining a police to population ratio at or above the national average.

Palmwoods and Maleny Police Divisions fall within the Sunshine Coast Police District. Since March 2007 the approved police strength of the Sunshine Coast District has increased from 418 to 445, an increase of 27 positions. In addition, there are 42 First Year Constables currently servicing the Sunshine Coast District, bringing the actual staffing figure to 487 (as at 1 March 2010). The Palmwoods and Maleny Police Divisions each have an approved police strength of two officers (as at 1 March 2010).

Woodford Police Division is within the Caboolture Police District. The approved police strength of Caboolture District is 194 and Woodford Police Division has an approved police strength of two officers (as at 1 March 2010). There are currently 18 First Year Constables operating in the Caboolture District.

When considering the level of policing services provided to police divisions in the Sunshine Coast and Caboolture Districts, the duties performed by officers attached to district functions such as the Traffic Branch, Criminal Investigation Branch, Child Protection Investigation Unit, Tactical Crime Squad should also be taken into account. Officers attached to all district functions perform operational duties and provide backup support throughout the districts.

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 Caboolture and Sunshine Coast Districts) to ensure that police numbers are kept at appropriate levels in all communities.

Police staffing resources are not allocated by the Queensland Police Service on the basis of one or two factors alone, as this would fail to take account of service delivery requirements, community policing initiatives and the complexity of providing an equitable policing service in a state the size of Queensland.

Future staffing resources for the Palmwoods, Maleny and Woodford Divisions will be monitored as part of annual planning processes to ensure the highest level of service is maintained.