

**Question on Notice  
No. 1094  
Asked on 17 June 2011**

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

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister advise:

- (a) How many patrols were conducted by Queensland Water Police in the Currumbin Estuary in 2010-11 (listed by date),
- (b) What was the patrol type and how many police were involved in each patrol,
- (c) How many infringement notices were issued (listed by date and type of offence) (reported separately)?

**ANSWER:**

The Bligh Government is committed to law and order and protecting Queenslanders. Over the last five years the Queensland Police Service (QPS) has been allocated \$15 million for the replacement of vessels in its Water Police fleet. This investment in water police operations has funded three 22-metre catamarans at a cost of \$12 million and upgrades to another three vessels, including replacement of the Gold Coast Water Police's A L Greaves in 2008.

Further to this investment, the QPS has a \$900,000 centralised vessel maintenance program to fund the maintenance of vessels around the State. As part of this program, new power and drive systems are being fitted to the Gold Coast Water Police Vessel D A Shean at a cost of \$260,000.

Between 1 July 2010 and 30 June 2011, the Gold Coast District Water Police conducted 29 patrols in the Currumbin Estuary. Details of these patrols are attached.

The attached list includes a two-day operation named 'Operation CURRY' which was conducted on 14 and 15 May 2011. Five staff and resources from the Gold Coast District Water Police, Gold Coast District Traffic Branch and Queensland Boating and Fisheries resources were utilised. This operation saw nine vessel and two personal water craft interceptions, and 47 marine and land based random breath tests (RBTs) conducted. As a result, eight infringement notices were issued and one person was charged with a drink driving offence.

The waterborne vessel patrols and boat ramp/foreshore vehicle patrols were conducted with 2 or 3 officers on each patrol.

During this same period, there have been 12 Infringement Notices issued by Gold Coast Water Police in Currumbin Creek, including the Estuary. This number is

reflective of the low level of complaints received from the community relating to this area.

Water Police have a number of functions beyond patrols, including:

- Search and Rescue – training, co-ordination and reporting
- Vehicle mounted patrols of boat ramps, marinas, marine facilities and water ways related infrastructure.
- Vessel and equipment maintenance
- Planning – aquatic events and operations
- Training – vessel, marine, engineering (required for certifications), PPE, safety, Police related skills maintenance, specialist boat training (including on bars, coastal conditions and counter terrorism)
- Research and development on equipment
- Administrative requirements
- Foot patrols of islands in Gold Coast District
- Liaison – Fisheries, Maritime Safety Queensland, Volunteer Marine Rescue, Coast Guard, Customs
- Complaint management – responses to marine-related complaints
- Investigations – marine related investigations (as opposed to enforcement)
- Intelligence gathering

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

## ATTACHMENT

Details of patrols conducted by Queensland Water Police in the Currumbin Estuary between 1 July 2010 and 30 June 2011 (listed by date) are as follows:

| <i>Date</i>           | <i>Patrol Type</i> | <i>No. of Officers</i> | <i>Infringement Notices Issued</i>                 | <i>Intercepts</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------|
| <b>July 2010</b>      |                    |                        |  |                   |
| 10 <sup>th</sup>      | Vehicle            | 2                      | 1 (fail to display capacity label as required)     | 19                |
| 16 <sup>th</sup>      | Vessel             | 2                      | 0  | 1                 |
| 27 <sup>th</sup>      | Vehicle            | 2                      | 0  | 5                 |
|                       |                    |                        | 0  |                   |
| <b>August 2010</b>    | NIL                |                        |  |                   |
| <b>September 2010</b> |                    |                        |  |                   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>       | Vehicle            | 2                      | 0  | 6                 |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>       | Vehicle            | 3                      | 0  | 12                |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup>      | Vehicle            | 3                      | 1 (exceed gazetted speed limit)                    | 15                |
| <b>October 2010</b>   | NIL                |                        |  |                   |
| <b>November 2010</b>  |                    |                        |  |                   |
| 28 <sup>th</sup>      | Vehicle            | 1                      | 0  | 8                 |
| <b>December 2010</b>  |                    |                        |  |                   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>       | Vehicle            | 2                      | 0 due to heavy seas                                |                   |
| 16 <sup>th</sup>      | Vessel             | 2                      | 0  | 41                |
| 28 <sup>th</sup>      | Vehicle            | 3                      | 0  | 5                 |
| 30 <sup>th</sup>      | Vessel             | 2                      | 0  | 5                 |
| <b>January 2011</b>   |                    |                        |  |                   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>       | Vehicle            | 2                      | 0  | 0                 |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>       | Vehicle            | 2                      | 0  | 4                 |
| <b>February 2011</b>  |                    |                        |  |                   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>       | Vehicle            | 2                      | 0  |                   |
| 16 <sup>th</sup>      | Vehicle            | 2                      | 1 (conduct activity which endangers marine safety) | 2                 |
|                       |                    |                        |  | 1                 |
| <b>March 2011</b>     |                    |                        |  |                   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>       | Vehicle            | 2                      | 0  | 0                 |
| 11 <sup>th</sup>      | Vessel             | 2                      | 0  | 5                 |
| 13 <sup>th</sup>      | Vehicle            | 3                      | 0  | 2                 |
| 19 <sup>th</sup>      | Vehicle            | 3                      | 0  | 0                 |
| <b>April 2011</b>     |                    |                        |  |                   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>       | Vehicle            | 3                      | 0  |                   |
| 24 <sup>th</sup>      | Vessel             | 2                      | 1 (exceed gazetted speed limit)                    | 4                 |
|                       |                    |                        |  | 10                |
| <b>May 2011</b>       |                    |                        |  |                   |
| 13 <sup>th</sup>      | Vehicle            | 1                      | 0  | 0                 |
| 14 <sup>th</sup>      | Vessel             | 3                      | 0  | 25                |
| 15 <sup>th</sup>      | Vessel             | 3                      | 0  | 3                 |
| 24 <sup>th</sup>      | Vessel             | 3                      | 0  | 0                 |
| <b>June 2011</b>      |                    |                        |  |                   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>       | Vessel             | 2                      | 0  | 10                |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>       | Vehicle            | 2                      | 0  | 8                 |
| 13 <sup>th</sup>      | Vessel             | 2                      | 0  | 3                 |
| 29 <sup>th</sup>      | Vehicle            | 3                      | 0 (inclement conditions)                           | 0                 |