

**Question on Notice
No. 370
Asked on 23 March 2011**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the staffing and budget for Taskforce Hydra—

- (1) What was the total budget, expenditure and staffing level for the taskforce in 2008-09, 2009-10; and 2010-11? (reported separately by year)?
- (2) How many arrests did the taskforce make in 2008-09, 2009-10; and 2010-11? (reported separately by year)?
- (3) How many operations has Taskforce Hydra been involved in from 2008 to date?

ANSWER:

The Bligh Government is determined to disrupt the criminal activities of organised crime groups, including outlaw motorcycle gangs.

Outlaw Motor Cycle Gangs (OMCGs) are an ongoing investigative and intelligence priority for the Queensland Police Service (QPS) based on their known involvement in criminal activity and propensity for violence within Australia and internationally.

OMCG Task Force Hydra was established within the QPS State Crime Operations Command Organised Crime Group in September 2006 and is responsible for directing QPS strategies aimed at disrupting and dismantling OMCGs in Queensland.

- (1) Details regarding the budget and staffing of Taskforce Hydra are as follows:

Budget expended by Taskforce Hydra

Year	Actual Budget Expended
2008/09	\$1,730,954
2009/10	\$2,174,248
2010 to 31/3/2011	\$2,036,486

Staffing levels for Taskforce Hydra

Year	Staffing Levels
2008/09	15
2009/10	15
2010 to 31/03/2011*	28

* Note: The increased staffing of Task Force Hydra was allocated from the 2010/11 non regional police growth positions.

(2) Taskforce Hydra has been responsible for the following number of arrests:

Year	No. of persons arrested	No. of charges preferred
2008	209	599
2009	174	551
2010	261	543
2011 to 31/03/11*	7	10

* Note: Arrests for 2011 relate to the period 1 January 2011 to 20 March 2011. The arrest figures for 2010 and previous years are provided separately by calendar year.

(3) Since 2008 to 31 March 2011, Taskforce Hydra has been responsible for the management and investigation of 69 operations targeting Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs, their members and activities in Queensland. Such operations targeted the production and trafficking of dangerous drugs – in particular: methyl amphetamine; cocaine; ecstasy and cannabis. The operations have also identified persons unlawfully possessing firearms and other weapons; offences of extortion; serious assaults; and grievous bodily harm.

The QPS also conducts policing and management of OMCG road trips and activities. These operations continue the enforcement of appropriate criminal and transport legislations, reduce the impact upon the general public and tackle road and vehicle safety. Resources for these operations are drawn from regional policing resources, other units within the QPS and resources from other government departments. This multi-faceted approach to the policing of these road trips provides for enhanced safety to the Queensland community and other road users.