

**Question on Notice
No. 625
Asked on 10 May 2011**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to an article in the Noosa Journal of 29 April 2011 where it was reported that over the Easter long weekend, both the Noosa Heads Police Station and the Hastings Street Police Beat were closed and when asked, a Queensland Police spokesman said that ‘the division is adequately staffed over the long weekend’—

What were the numbers of police actually on duty by day at both the Noosa Heads Police Station and the Hastings Street Beat on Friday 22 April, Saturday 23 April, Sunday 24 April, Monday 25 April and Tuesday 26 April?

ANSWER:

I can assure the member that the Noosa Police Division was adequately staffed and that the Noosa Heads Police Station and Police Beat were not closed over the Easter long weekend.

As the member would know, the Noosa Heads Police Station is a 24-hour station and has counter hours from 8am to 4pm on normal business days. Because those days over the long weekend were not normal business days all staff at the police station were rostered on patrol to respond to calls for service from the local community.

Members of the public who attend the station outside the times of normal counter service are able to contact police directly via the blue phone at the front doors of the station. This phone provides direct communication with the North Coast Region Police Communications Centre which has direct radio contact with Noosa Heads Police officers on patrol.

I can assure the member and his constituents that if an urgent situation is reported, police will respond immediately.

Police Beat Shopfronts are aimed at providing the people of Queensland with an effective policing presence in shopping centres and central business districts. The Noosa Heads Police Beat provides a service to the Hastings Street precinct, complimentary to the Noosa Heads Police Station.

On Friday 22 April 2011 there were 16 uniformed officers rostered at the Noosa Heads Police Station. The Police Beat officer was on a rostered Rest Day.

On Saturday 23 April 2011 there were 13 uniformed officers rostered at the Noosa Heads Police Station. The Police Beat officer was on a rostered Rest Day.

On Sunday 24 April 2011 there were 11 uniformed officers rostered at Noosa Heads Police Station. The Police Beat was staffed by one officer from Noosa Heads Police

Station during the day shift. In addition, the Police Beat officer worked the night shift, which was considered to be the peak time for calls for service for that day.

On Monday 25 April 2011 there were 10 uniformed officers rostered at Noosa Heads Police Station. In addition, the Police Beat officer worked the night shift, which was considered the peak time for calls for service for that day.

On Tuesday 26 April 2011 there were 12 uniformed officers rostered at Noosa Heads Station. In addition, the Police Beat officer worked the night shift, which was considered the peak time for calls for that day.

It should be noted that Noosa Heads police officers were also provided with support from other areas of the Sunshine Coast Police District during the Easter period. Officers from district units such as the Sunshine Coast District Criminal Investigation Branch, Child Protection and Investigation Unit, Traffic Branch and Tactical Crime Squad were utilised to protect the people of Noosa Heads.

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 provides 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. In 2009, the Bligh Government gave a three-year commitment to increase police numbers by up to 600 officers, bringing the total number of police to more than 10,600 by March 2012.

This continued commitment to law and order has seen the number of police officers in Queensland consistently increase by 3,689 under successive Labor Governments – from 6,800 officers in June 1998 to 10,489 police officers at 1 May 2011 – an increase of 54 percent.

The Bligh Government is committed to ensuring the Queensland Police Service is provided with the resources needed to maintain effective and responsive policing services in all areas of the State, including Noosa.