

**Question on Notice  
No. 350  
2 May 2013**

MR KATTER asked the Minister for Police and Community Safety (MR DEMPSEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Etheridge Shire which is currently understaffed, with one policeman on modified duties due to a work accident last year and as there are only two able bodied sergeants covering the whole of the shire—

Will the Minister confirm when full policing numbers will be restored to this shire?

ANSWER:

Police positions within the Etheridge Shire include those allocated to Mount Surprise, Forsayth and Georgetown Police Stations.

The Officer in Charge at Georgetown has recently commenced a period of extended leave due to work-related injuries, which will finish near the end of 2013. An expression of interest has been disseminated to all officers within the Far Northern Police Region to identify a relieving officer. The position is expected to be filled within the next few weeks.

The position at Georgetown has been periodically relieved by officers from within the Mareeba Police District on full operational duties. There are periods where officers from the three above stations are absent for various reasons including recreation leave and training. During these periods, rostering and operations are co-ordinated to allow for an adequate policing presence.

Policing services in the Georgetown area will continue to be supported by officers from Mount Surprise, Forsayth and Croydon.