

**Question on Notice  
No. 611  
Asked on 26 August 2014**

MR BERRY ASKED THE MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (MR DEMPSEY)—

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister outline the improvements to policing resources in the Ipswich District that are assisting local police to keep the families of Ipswich safe?

**ANSWER:**

The Queensland Government is committed to reducing crime and making Queensland an even safer place to live, visit and raise a family. That is why the Government is continuing to revitalise frontline policing by providing an additional 1,100 new police officers over four years.

To date, the Government has delivered well over 800 additional officers who have been allocated throughout the State to areas of critical need. This increase in frontline police will enable the Queensland Police Service (QPS) to commit more officers to proactive policing tasks.

Police Divisions in Ipswich have benefitted from an increase of 85 police officers from 1 April 2012 to 1 August 2014. This included increases in the Goodna Division by 23 officers, Ipswich by 28 officers and Springfield by 17 officers (as at 1 August 2014).

Since this Government was first elected, there has been an increase of 36% in officer numbers for police divisions in the Ipswich area (319 officers as at 1 August 2014, compared to 234 officers on 1 April 2012). As a result of this increased staffing allocation, a second office of the Ipswich District Tactical Crime Squad will be established at Springfield later this year.

In addition to officers stationed within Police Divisions in the Ipswich area, the area has access to specialist police services.

Ipswich District purchased a substantial amount of essential police operational equipment in the 2013-14 financial year. This equipment purchased in 2013-14 includes items such as torches, protective armour, stinger tyre deflation devices, portable radios, alcometers, capsicum spray, cellebrities, and security safes.

Policing has also been advanced by the use of the revolutionary QLITE technology. Currently, officers in the Ipswich District have access to 18 QLITEs. The QLITE application, allows police on the beat greater access to operational information, increasing efficiency, productivity and service delivery.

Capital works have been approved for Lowood Police Station, with approximately \$238,000 being spent to renovate the station. The renovations have commenced and will include a new vehicle carport and driveway, new exhibit store, upgraded amenities, new furniture, modification to reception and a public blue phone for direct dial to Police Communications.

MyPolice blogs allow police officers to provide their local communities with information on local issues, crime prevention tips, current crime trends and public alerts and warnings.

The Ipswich myPolice blog was launched in August 2013. Since its launch, the Ipswich myPolice blog pages have been viewed 106,732 times (as at 18 September 2014).

There is also an Ipswich Neighbourhood Watch blog which was launched on 27 March 2014. There are 89 subscribers to the Ipswich nhwq.org blog. Ipswich also has 37 active Neighbourhood Watch groups (as at 17 September 2014).

Under the Newman Government's strong plan for a brighter future, the Ipswich community has an enhanced police presence and those police are better resourced as a result of this Government delivering on its commitment to revitalise frontline services.