

Question on Notice
No. 853
Asked on 15 June 2018

MR D LAST ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise whether there are any plans to increase the number of police officers at Bowen police station to enable offenders to be held at this police station overnight, as opposed to the current practice of transporting offenders to the neighbouring Whitsunday police station and then having to return them to Bowen the next day?

ANSWER:

The allocation of police resources is determined by the Police Commissioner following a detailed assessment of area growth, safety issues and any new or emerging issues. The Police Commissioner makes this decision, free of any political interference, which is as it should be. This also ensures a fair and equitable service is provided throughout the state.

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service that the new Bowen Police Station has an allocated staffing model that meets the current policing needs of the Bowen community, including sufficient officers to supervise prisoners overnight and for the short-term watchhouse custody of prisoners awaiting release on bail or court appearances.

However, as is the case in most country areas, Bowen police can access larger centre facilities, such as Townsville and the Whitsundays, which are used to detain long term prisoners and for the transition of prisoners to Corrective Services facilities.