

Question on Notice
No. 1564
Asked on 15 October 2019

MS F SIMPSON ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Sunshine Coast Water Police station which only has four officers-

Will the Minister (a) acknowledge the need for more police officers to be permanently added to the station and (b) provide help to ensure the station receives additional resources to keep people safe on our waters?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that the Sunshine Coast Water Police are supported by maritime partner agencies including Marine Safety Queensland, Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Queensland Fisheries, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Queensland Volunteer Marine Rescue, Queensland Coast Guard, Australian Maritime Border Command and all of these agencies work closely together to keep our waterways safe for all users.

Further, I have been advised that in April 2019, the Sunshine Coast Water Police received a new 17m state of the art patrol vessel at a cost of over \$3 million. This vessel is equipped with the latest technology for navigation, search and rescue, and has a range of over 440 nautical miles. It has accommodation facilities to allow overnight and extended deployments and the capacity to be used as a police Forward Command Post during disaster related events.

The allocation of police resources is an operational matter for the Commissioner of Police, free of political interference. Further, these decisions follow a detailed assessment of area growth, community and safety issues, calls for service and new or emerging issues. These requirements can change as new policing issues emerge.

I have been assured that the allocation of police resources across the state is constantly reviewed to ensure the best possible service is provided to all Queensland communities, including the Sunshine Coast.