

Question on Notice
No. 388
Asked on 27 March 2019

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Southport watch house and prisoner transfers from Brisbane to the Gold Coast from 1 October 2018 to March 2019—

Will the Minister advise (a) what additional manpower and overtime costs were incurred, (b) how many officers were re-assigned from normal police duties in the Southport police district to assist, (c) the additional transport and wage costs incurred and (d) what compromises were made in respect of community safety and police numbers for the Southport police district?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that, during the period 1 October 2018 to 28 February 2019, prisoner transfers to and from the Southport Watchhouse were performed by officers who were rostered for transport duties as part of their normal duties and on overtime, outside of their normal rostered shifts, as required.

QPS has advised that the total overtime costs incurred to perform watchhouse duties, including prisoner transfers, during this period was \$89,342.

Further, QPS advises that to identify the specific overtime costs incurred for transport duties would require the manual examination of staff rosters and payroll claim forms for the requested period. This is considered an unjustifiable use of police resources.

I am advised that no officers were re-assigned from normal police duties in the Southport Police Division to assist with prisoner transfers. Transportation of prisoners was performed by QPS members rostered on transport duties as part of normal duties and on overtime, outside of their normal rostered shifts, as required.

The information above clearly demonstrates that the operational capabilities of police, especially in relation to matters of community safety, were not compromised.