

Question on Notice
No. 579
Asked on 4 APRIL 2019

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the number of FTE police officers at the Gympie, Imbil, Tin Can Bay, and Rainbow Beach police stations for 2015 to 2018 (reported separately by year and police station)?

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 ensures a fair and equitable service is provided throughout the state.

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) has advised that comparing the actual headcount or actual FTE at any particular point in time is ineffective because these numbers fluctuate with temporary vacancies, retirements, transfers and new recruits coming on line. Further, I am advised that the allocation of new First Year Constables and Second Year Constables is particularly influential with regards to these numbers. Accordingly, the most effective measure for comparison is the approved police strength. On this basis, the QPS has provided the table below with the approved police strength and FTE for the police divisions requested:

Division	01 July 2015		30 June 2016		30 June 2017		30 June 2018	
	APPR POLICE STRENGTH	FTE	APPR POLICE STRENGTH	FTE	APPR POLICE STRENGTH	FTE	APPR POLICE STRENGTH	FTE
GYMPIE DIVISION	36	45.12	39	52.58	39	47.68	39	42.84
IMBIL DIVISION	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
TIN CAN BAY DIVISION	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8

Note: Gympie Police Division strengths include 1 Watchhouse Manager.

As this table shows, the approved police strength in the Gympie Division has increased since 2015 and in all years for all police divisions the actual FTE has either matched or exceeded the approved police strength.

The QPS has advised that the Rainbow Beach Community Beat falls within the Tin Can Bay Police Division. The approved police strength and the FTE for the Rainbow Beach Community Beat remained steady at 2, from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2018.

The QPS has further advised that it uses its best endeavours to fill any vacancies as soon as possible.

QPS has advised that in addition to officers stationed within the above Divisions, these areas have access to specialist police services within District, Regional and Central Functions — including Criminal Investigation Branch, Child Protection and Investigation Unit and Road Policing.

The Palaszczyk Government has committed to delivering an additional 535 police personnel, including 115 counter terrorism specialists by 2021-22.