Question on Notice No.1068 Asked on 15 September 2021

MR P WEIR ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise if consideration will be given to increasing the number of police officers stationed at Pittsworth given the increase in migration to regional areas within the Condamine Electorate due to the lack of available and affordable housing in Toowoomba and the reported rise in criminal activities in the community?

ANSWER:

This Government has committed to the biggest boost to policing in Queensland in three decades. The 2021/22 record police budget supports the rollout of an additional 2,025 police personnel, including 1,450 sworn officers over five years, from 1 July 2020.

The additional personnel will not only give the Queensland Police Service (QPS) an enhanced capability to investigate and respond to crime, but also to disrupt and prevent crime.

I am advised that of the 1,450 additional police officers to be delivered over five years from 1 July 2020, the Police Commissioner has determined that at least 150 positions will be located in the Southern Police Region, which includes Pittsworth Police Division, and other police divisions that service the Condamine electorate.

Further, I am advised that as at 30 June 2021, the overall rate of total reported crime for the Darling Downs Police District from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 decreased by 13% compared to the previous period in 2019/20. I commend the officers of the Darling Downs Police District on their efforts in this regard.

The Pittsworth Police Division is also supported by the Major and Organised Crime Squad, Darling Downs District Tactical Crime Squad, Toowoomba Road Policing, Child Protection Investigation Unit and Criminal Investigation Branch as well as other district and central police functions.

As the Member knows, the allocation of police resources is determined by the Police Commissioner following a detailed assessment of area growth, community safety concerns and any new or emerging issues. The Police Commissioner makes this decision free of any political interference to ensure fair and equitable service is provided throughout the state.