

Question on Notice
No. 486
Asked on 24 May 2022

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

QUESTION:

With reference to Gympie, Imbil, and Tin Can Bay police stations and the Rainbow Beach police beat -

Will the Minister advise per station from 2017 to 2022 (reported separately by station and year) (a) the approved strength and (b) the total calls for service?

ANSWER:

This Government has committed to the biggest boost to policing in Queensland in three decades. The 2022/23 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.

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) 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 North Coast Police Region, which includes the Wide Bay Burnett Police District.

The allocation of police resources is a matter for the Commissioner of Police based on operational policing demand and direct service delivery requirements to ensure a fair and equitable service is provided throughout the State. I am advised these requirements can change as new policing issues emerge.

I note the Member has only asked for information about the approved strength per police station/division. While the requested information is set out below, it is important to note that in addition to these station/division numbers there are also a number of police personnel who perform district and central police functions and who are hosted in particular police stations/divisions. For example, at the Gympie Police Station, in addition to the 39 police officers who perform station/division functions, there are 47 other police personnel who perform district/central functions bringing the total number based at Gympie Police Station to 86.

I am advised by the QPS that the approved police strength as at 31 December 2017 in the Gympie Police Division was 39, the approved strength as at 31 December 2018 was 39, the approved strength as at 31 December 2019 was 39, the approved strength as at 31 December 2020 was 39, and the approved strength as at 31 December 2021 was 39. Data for the 2022 calendar year will be available at the end of the 2022 calendar year.

I am advised by the QPS that the approved police strength as at 31 December 2017 in the Imbil Police Division was 2, the approved strength as at 31 December 2018 was 2, the approved strength as at 31 December 2019 was 2, the approved strength as at 31 December 2020 was 2, and the approved strength as at 31 December 2021 was 2. Data for the 2022 calendar year will be available at the end of the 2022 calendar year.

I am advised by the QPS that the approved police strength as at 31 December 2017 in the Tin Can Bay Police Division was 8 (this includes 2 officers based at the Rainbow Beach Police Beat), the approved strength as at 31 December 2018 was 8 (this includes 2 officers based at the Rainbow Beach Police Beat), the approved strength as at 31 December 2019 was 8 (this includes 2 officers based at the Rainbow Beach Police Beat), the approved strength as at 31 December 2020 was 8 (this includes 2 officers based at the Rainbow Beach Police Beat), and the approved strength as at 31 December 2021 was 8. Data for the 2022 calendar year will be available at the end of the 2022 calendar year.

In addition to the approved divisional police strength, specialist District, Regional and Central police services such as the Criminal Investigation Branch, Child Protection Investigation Unit, Tactical Crime Squad, Intelligence, Road Policing and Scenes of Crime provide specialist support to the Division as required.

I am advised by the QPS that the verified call for service data for the Gympie, Imbil and Tin Can Bay (including the Rainbow Beach Police Beat) Police Divisions are provided in the tables below. Please note that the Gympie Police Contact Centre only commenced in March 2019. Accordingly, data prior to this time cannot be centrally verified and is not comparable because to do so would require a manually examination of thousands of police records which the QPS considers to be an unreasonable use of police resources.

Number of Calls for Service, selected Wide Bay Burnett District Police Stations

Station	2019	2020	2021
Gympie	8,934	10,900	9,423
Imbil	742	870	945
Tin Can Bay	1,268	1,632	1,550

Number of Calls for Service, Rainbow Beach Police Beat

Station	2019	2020	2021
Rainbow Beach	498	613	627

Notes:

1. Data is preliminary and may be subject to change.
2. Data has been extracted using the initial call for service type and are subject to change.
3. Gympie Police Contact Centre (PCC) commenced in March 2019.