Question on Notice No. 939 Asked on 23 August 2023

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide for each month since June 2022 in table format (excluding officers not rostered on duty due to illness, leave or secondment) (a) the FTE allocation of general duties sworn police officers for Gympie, Imbil and Tin Can Bay police stations and the Rainbow Beach police beat and (b) the number of general duties sworn police officers rostered on duty at each station?

ANSWER:

This Government has committed to the biggest boost to police resourcing in Queensland in three decades. The record \$3 billion plus police budget supports the rollout of an additional 2,025 police personnel, including 1,450 police officers over five years.

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.

In respect of the member's question, I refer the member to the answer to Question on Notice 333 of 2023 and I am advised by the QPS that there has been no change to the approved police strength for subsequent months.

The member should also note that these numbers are divisional only and do not include the more than 450 officer positions allocated to other divisional, district and central policing functions who work across the Wide Bay Burnett Police District.

I am advised by the QPS that verified data relating to police officers rostered on duty at each Police Division to the level of detail referenced in the question would require manual review and interrogation of rosters. This is considered by the QPS to be an unjustifiable use of police resources at this time.

In addition, I am advised there are a number of reasons the QPS does not release details of police rosters and the specific allocation of police resources to the community. The release of operational policing information has the potential to compromise officer safety, as it means that information is in the public domain about methodologies and rostering practices of police personnel. This information could be used inappropriately to inform unlawful activity. I hope that the member would agree with the QPS that anything which compromises officer safety should be avoided.

On QPS advice, it should be clarified that a police roster is not an accurate reflection of the resources available to a police station at any one time. In addition to those officers on a station roster, a police station has at their discretion the resources of a number of specialist police groups that are brought in to attend to an incident or respond to a call. Teams such as water police, drug squad, homicide units to name a few are not part of the police station roster.

To compliment these factors, police stations have the ability when required to draw on resources from other geographically close police stations or district offices should it be required to effectively provide policing services to the community. Police districts have the discretion and flexibility to move resources around as demand dictates to keep Queenslanders safe.