

Question on Notice
No. 325
Asked on 21 March 2024

MS F SIMPSON ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to approved levels of police numbers and actual numbers employed—

Will the Minister advise (a) what the approved strength versus the actual employed number of FTE General Duties Police at Nambour, Maroochydore and Coolum Police Stations are currently and (b) what the approved and actual number was for the past five years (reported separately by year)?

ANSWER:

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 and that is as it should be. This aligns with the outcome of the Fitzgerald Inquiry. I am advised these requirements can change as new policing issues emerge.

I am advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that as at 29 February 2024 there were 591 approved police positions in the Sunshine Coast Police District, including district and central functions. This is an increase of 61 police positions since 31 March 2015.

I am further advised by the QPS that police districts have discretion and flexibility to move resources around as demand dictates to keep Queenslanders safe. For example, in addition to designated police division resources, specialist police group resources such as water police, drug squad, and homicide units, can be drawn upon to assist with attending to an incident or responding to a call. Police divisions also have the ability to draw on resources from other geographically close police divisions to effectively provide policing services to the community.

As with many organisations, there will be from time to time vacancies or additional personnel at workplace locations. Where vacancies exist, the QPS endeavours to fill those positions as a matter of priority. In addition, when retirements or other personnel movements are expected or planned, the QPS will at times locate additional personnel at these workplace locations to support the transition of those personnel. That may mean that a particular policing establishment may have more personnel than its approved strength on a specific date (for example, 30 June) for a period of time.

I am advised by QPS that as at 29 February 2024, the approved permanent positions across the Coolum, Maroochydore and Nambour Police Divisions was 146 and the substantive headcount was 147.

As at 28 February 2019, the approved permanent positions across the Coolum, Maroochydore and Nambour Police Divisions was 148 and the substantive headcount was 156.

As at 29 February 2020, the approved permanent positions across the Coolum, Maroochydore and Nambour Police Divisions was 152 and the substantive headcount was 151.

As at 28 February 2021, the approved permanent positions across the Coolum, Maroochydore and Nambour Police Divisions was 151 and the substantive headcount was 152.

As at 28 February 2022, the approved permanent positions across the Coolum, Maroochydore and Nambour Police Divisions was 149 and the substantive headcount was 148.

As at 28 February 2023, the approved permanent positions across the Coolum, Maroochydore and Nambour Police Divisions was 149 and the substantive headcount was 150.

I am advised by the QPS that the changes in approved permanent positions and headcount across these three divisions is due to a number of factors, including the re-allocation of resources to other divisions, district and central functions within the Sunshine Coast Police District. For example, some resources were reallocated to support Major Events, and Project Booyah, among other things. These decisions are operational matters for the QPS.