

Question on Notice
No. 76
Asked on 14 February 2024

MR N DAMETTO ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to Townsville having recently granted the use of a POLAIR helicopter to help combat youth crime— Will the Minister advise since being introduced, (a) how many times the Townsville POLAIR has been deployed to pursue stolen cars or to assist with other criminal activity in the Townsville area and (b) the cost of Townsville's POLAIR to date?

ANSWER:

On 16 January 2024, the Premier and I announced the commencement of the process for delivering a permanent POLAIR capability for Townsville. I am advised by the Queensland Police Service that work is underway to bring this important capability to Townsville to support safe and efficient police operations for our police officers and to enhance community safety.

As an interim arrangement, this government provided immediate funding for Townsville police to engage with a local helicopter company in Townsville to commence aerial patrols. While I am advised this arrangement in Townsville is an interim arrangement until the procurement of a permanent and official POLAIR helicopter, I am informed the interim helicopter used by Townsville police has similar equipment and capabilities to the POLAIR helicopters currently operating in Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

In relation to the Member's question I am advised by the QPS:

- (a) 22 (as at 16 February 2024);
- (b) As the Member would appreciate, whenever governments award long term contractual arrangements, they have to go through a proper tender process at the end of which it will be possible to disclose the amounts. However, in the initial stages of a procurement, it's in the interest of taxpayers as well as proper process to run that tender process fully and transparently.