

Question on Notice
No. 852
Asked on 14 June 2024

MR D PURDIE ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide separately for Kuranda Police Station and Smithfield Police Station (a) the approved permanent positions (reported in a tabulated format) for the past five years and (b) the current vacancies?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) is currently undertaking the largest recruitment drive in its history to deliver 1,450 new police officers, in addition to the further 500 new police officers announced on 30 April 2024.

With the help of \$87.5M announced by the Queensland Government in April 2023 to fund marketing and offer a range of incentives and initiatives, the number of recruit applications has reached historic highs in 2024 and the foreseeable future for police recruiting is delivering upon plans. The QPS advise that as at 30 June 2024 there are 650 recruits employed by the QPS and over 2,300 in the recruitment applicant pipeline.

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.

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 the Queensland Police Service (QPS) that for the five preceding end of calendar years, the police approved permanent positions for Smithfield and Kuranda Divisions is detailed in the table below.

The member should also note that these numbers are divisional only and do not include the 944 other police positions allocated to other divisional, district and central policing functions which support service delivery across the Far North District.

All police divisions within the district are supported by district functions including Domestic and Family Violence Coordination, Road Policing, Dog Squads, Criminal Investigation, and Child Protection Investigation Unit. They are further supported by centralised police

services (Central Functions) including Forensic Services, Organised Crime, and Disaster Management.

I am further advised by the QPS that a borderless policing philosophy and priority policing model is applied to direct resources in an effective and timely manner to maximise the organisation's capability to protect and serve the community. The result is a more agile policing response where officers from neighbouring police divisions may assist with service demand.

Police	Approved Permanent Positions	
	Kuranda Division	Smithfield Division
31-Dec-19	9	25
31-Dec-20	9	25
31-Dec -21	9	25
31-Dec-22	9	25
31-Dec-23	9	24

I am further advised by the QPS that as at 30 June 2024 Smithfield Division had a substantive headcount of 26 (**two** above the approved permanent positions) and Kuranda Division had a substantive headcount of nine with an increase to 11 approved permanent positions, with QPS endeavouring to fill the **two new growth** approved permanent positions as soon as possible.