

Question on Notice
No. 869
Asked on 20 August 2024

MR P WEIR ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to answer to Question on Notice No. 458 of 2023 regarding the allocation of police officers in the electorate of Condamine and constituents having expressed the concerns they have relating to the pressures on police officers manning stations within the Condamine Electorate due to staffing issues—

Will the Minister advise the actual number of police officers from January 2024 to current (reported separately by month inclusive) at the following police stations in the Condamine Electorate - Cambooya, Crows Nest, Drayton, Goombungee, Jondaryan, Oakey and Pittsworth?

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 31 August 2024 there were 826 recruits employed by the QPS and over 2,370 in the recruit 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 the substantive headcount for each Police Division as at 31 January 2024 to 31 July 2024 inclusive is detailed below.

Cambooya Division as at 31 January 2024 was 1 (which was equal to or above the approved permanent positions), as at 29 February 2024 was 1 (which was equal to or above the approved permanent positions), as at 31 March 2024 was 1 (which was equal to

Pittsworth Division as at 31 January 2024 was 2 (which was equal to or above the approved permanent positions), as at 29 February 2024 was 2 (which was equal to or above the approved permanent positions), as at 31 March 2024 was 2 (which was equal to or above the approved permanent positions), as at 30 April 2024 was 2 (which was equal to or above the approved permanent positions), as at 31 May 2024 was 2 (which was equal to or above the approved permanent positions), as at 30 June 2024 was 2 (which was equal to or above the approved permanent positions), and as at 31 July 2024 was 2 (which was equal to or above the approved permanent positions).

The Member should note that these numbers are divisional only, and do not include the other 577 permanent police positions allocated to other divisions or district and central functions within the Darling Downs Police District. I am advised by the QPS that police districts have discretion and flexibility to move resources around between divisions 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.