



11 November 2008

APPALLING POLICE STATISTICS REVEALED

In a response to a parliamentary question on notice the Police and Corrective Services Minister, Judy Spence, has finally come clean on the disastrous state of police numbers in Noosa and the Sunshine Coast.

The Member for Noosa, Glen Elmes, stated " this is the second time I have had to ask this question in order to get a response. The Minister's first reply was nothing but government propaganda and it's no wonder why, when we now know that the entire Sunshine Coast has just 350 operational police officers.

"Judy Spence often quotes, with pride, a state figure of 1 police officer for every 429 Queenslanders, and that's the total number, not just operational. By comparison, as at 30 June 2007, the population of the Sunshine Coast was just over 303,000 which equates to 1 police officer for every 659 residents.

"My question though, was specific, in that I wanted to know the number of operational police who are available to respond to crime in our region, not those riding keyboards at Police Headquarters. The unfortunate fact of life is that with 350 operational police our police to population ratio means that we have 1 operational police officer for every 866 residents. The tragedy is that on the Sunshine Coast we have 110 police officers who wear blue uniforms and aren't available to respond to crime in our local communities."

After a further question by Glen Elmes in the parliament today, the Police Minister Judy Spence suggested that, in order to adequately police the Sunshine Coast, small stations in Western Qld would have to close.

"The fact is" said Glen Elmes "adequate police levels will be achieved by retaining the flood of experienced officers who are leaving the service, training additional new police and removing the overwhelming amount of bureaucratic red tape that every serving police officer needs to manage on a daily basis."

"In the former Noosa Shire the operational police ratio would be in excess of 1 police officer for over 1500 residents - that is a disgrace and the police minister and the incompetent government which she represents should hang their heads in shame."
ENDS

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