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NOOSA POLICE STAFFING AT HALF STRENGTH

Member for Noosa Glen Elmes revealed today that Noosa Heads Police Station is running at just half strength.

"The Queensland Police Staffing Allocation Model for Noosa Heads Police Station is 36 yet currently, just 18 to 20 police officers are on the active roster.

"The absolute minimum number of officers to provide 24-hour coverage is 18 yet this same number has to staff not just the Noosa Heads station but the Hastings Street Police Beat as well," Glen Elmes said.

"Not only are they running the manpower of the Noosa district down to an extremely dangerous level, I am told that local officers are being forced to work consecutive 12midnight to 8am shifts which is well more than the norm. Our local police are under enough stress without having their family life turned upside down because the Bligh Labor Government can't provide adequate protection for the Noosa community.

"In addition we have a ludicrous situation where, during the middle of the week, the Noosa Heads Police Station is closed and the Hastings Street Police Beat, which is there to provide a visual police deterrent is open yet it is those officers on duty at the Police Beat who are then required to close the Beat office and handle the general enquiries of the Noosa Police district which extends as far south as Marcus Creek into the Noosa Hinterland and north past Federal.

"You really do have to wonder which genius thought up this revolutionary way of keeping a lid on violence in Hastings Street," Glen Elmes said.

"The Noosa Heads station is also required to provide relief staff for the stations at Cooroy, Pomona and Eumundi.

"If the police hierarchy are going to treat the Noosa Station as a District Headquarters then they should make it one and provide it with the necessary staff to allow for regional replacements and a continuing safe level of police protection for Noosa."ENDS

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