



3 March 2008

POLICE MINISTER'S CHEAP STUNT

Police Minister Judy Spence's stroll around Hastings Street on Friday night at ten o'clock accompanied by Police-Commissioner Bob Atkinson and other senior police officers has been labelled a cheap political stunt by Member for Noosa, Glen Elmes.

"Judy Spence has made a mockery of the law and order problem in Noosa and her insulting charade has resulted only in anger and disbelief from residents and small business people in the Noosa electorate who are affected by the lack of police protection.

"In early December 2007 I wrote and asked the Minister to come to Noosa and I quote: *(full letter attached)*

"I would like to invite you to see first-hand just how bad the situation has become in the Noosa electorate. Rather than publicly walk the streets with senior police officers and media in a pre-organised coordinated event, I will drive you around the known trouble spots and let residents and business owners explain to you personally what they have to endure..."

Mr Elmes said he also wrote to the Police-Commissioner at the same time and in the same vein but still has not received a response from either the Minister or the Commissioner.

"The Minister then had the audacity to issue a media statement in February stating that she had shunned my invitation, she regularly holidays in Noosa and is well aware of the trouble spots.

"If that's the case, then instead of walking around well-lit Hastings Street with a full police escort, she could have visited the Noosa Woods area and some of the pathways that lead from the Woods down to the beach then go to Sunshine Beach or to Tickle Park in Coolum where young people gather and adjacent late-operating business owners often feel threatened.

"Since the incident in Noosa on Australia Day where police officers were bashed, kicked and spat on I have made two speeches in the Parliament specifically referring to law and order problems in Noosa and have run an on-line poll on my web site, www.glenelmes.com, where 85.6% of respondents agree that the Noosa electorate has a serious problem.

"I recall the Minister's walk around the streets of Mooloolaba with senior police and television cameras in tow and her recent statement regarding coming to Noosa where

she said she would not reveal the timing of the visit because she '*didn't want it to become a media circus*'.

"Well Minister, it may not have been a media circus on Friday night but it's become one now," Glen Elmes said. ENDS

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