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Minister attacks Elmes over Noosa Police

In an extraordinary move Police Minister, Judy Spence, used a planted-question by a Labor Party backbencher in Question Time in the Parliament today to attack the Member for Noosa, Glen Elmes on his campaign to have additional police allocated to the Noosa electorate.

“Judy Spence accused me of calling Noosa “a crime capital” which is a term only she has ever used as a way of trying to de-rail my law and order campaign.

“The Minister claims that crimes in Noosa have decreased. If this is true, it’s because the residents of the Noosa electorate which includes Coolum and Eumundi, have stopped reporting the crimes that they either witness or have committed against them because they know there is too few police to adequately do the follow-up or are tired of the phone ringing out when their calls are diverted to Maroochydore Central Communications,” Glen Elmes said.

“The Minister said in Parliament that the police to population ratio in Queensland is the best in Australia. That may or may not be true. The actual figure in Queensland is one police officer for 436 people.

“She went on to say that in her seat of Mt Gravatt, the figure is about one for every 800 people. As the Member for Mt Gravatt, she might be prepared to give her constituents a second-class police service, but I will not accept and the Noosa community will not accept, one police officer for every 1,046 Noosa residents.

“As I have said before, a good first start for this Labor Government would be to give the people of the Noosa shire and those covered by the Coolum police division, the number of police that actually appear on the roster. The police who have been assigned to duties away from Noosa or Coolum must be returned, all unfilled vacancies must be filled and the residents of the Noosa electorate be told the truth from a Minister and a Government intent on misinformation and deceit,” Glen Elmes said.

For more information contact Glen Elmes on 3406 7340 or 0400 800 114.

Full transcript from Parliament Hansard attached. ENDS

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