

Question on Notice
No. 519
Asked on 11 May 2021

MR LAST ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the refusal by the government to maintain a PolAir helicopter in north Queensland—

Will the Minister advise what conditions must be met for that decision to be changed?

ANSWER:

Under this government, there are three helicopters based in North Queensland, which are available for policing operations.

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) will always draw on every resource available to keep communities safe. As the Police Commissioner has publicly stated:

“The QPS will always deploy the best available police resources to support our policing operations and enhance community safety. For example, we have three government helicopters based in the north of our State which the QPS has access to and uses when needed. It is important to highlight that the QPS is entirely satisfied with those current arrangements.”

These three helicopters also perform life-saving search and rescue operations in North Queensland. They form part of a range of resources, funded by this government, that are available for police in North Queensland and this government will continue to fund police resources to ensure community safety is maintained.

As the Member would be aware, the current and future allocation of police resources is determined by the Police Commissioner following a detailed assessment of area growth, safety issues and any new or emerging issues. The Commissioner makes this decision free of any political interference, which is as it should be. This also ensures a fair and equitable service is provided throughout the state.