

# Commissioner's review

In presenting this annual report, I wish to acknowledge the professionalism and commitment of the 14 000 officers and staff members of the Queensland Police Service (QPS). It is through their dedication, integrity and skill that we can continue to deliver responsive and effective policing services throughout Queensland.

While there are many officers that could be singled out, I would like to pay particular tribute to Deputy Commissioner Dick Conder, who retired in December 2007 after 45 years of service. As Deputy Chief Executive (Operations), Mr Conder was responsible for the day to day operations of the Service and performed this role in an outstanding manner.

## Strengthened senior management

The retirement of Deputy Commissioner Conder provided an opportunity to realign the organisational structure of the Service, and to appoint an additional Deputy Commissioner. The workload and range of responsibilities for the position of Deputy Commissioner had steadily increased to an unrealistic level over recent years.

Kathy Rynders Deputy Commissioner (Regional Operations) and Ian Stewart Deputy Commissioner (Specialist Operations) were subsequently appointed and commenced their roles on 7 April 2008.

This new organisational structure has provided strategic advantages for the Service. It has been complemented by important changes within corporate services under the leadership of Paul Brown, Deputy Chief Executive (Resource Management). These have included enhancements to fleet management, the formation of a Strategic Capital Planning Committee and work towards the establishment of an Investment Governance Board.



## Community safety and engagement

### Effective disaster relief

During January and February, officers from the Queensland Police Service and other government agencies worked effectively together to assist Queensland communities overcome severe flooding. From Cunnamulla, Charleville, Longreach, Emerald, Gympie, Boonah, Beaudesert, Gold Coast, to Rockhampton and Mackay, officers assisted residents with their evacuation plans and patrolled the streets, while also working closely with other services of the Queensland Government.

A strong disaster management system is critical in a state like Queensland.

## Strengthened event management

The QPS needs to continually develop a range of innovative policing strategies to address the challenges and opportunities presented by Queensland's growing complexity and diversity.

The launch of our first mobile police facility in April is one such strategy. A further three vehicles are to be fitted out as mobile police facilities later this year. These vehicles will be used during search and rescue operations, natural disasters, at major crime scenes or industrial incidents, and for coordinating policing at major events. The mobile units will enhance our ability to respond to both planned and unplanned events.

## Crime management

### Protecting our children

A key focus for the QPS will always be protecting the most vulnerable people in our communities. Through its strategic alliances with child protection and law enforcement agencies worldwide but particularly the FBI, Task Force Argos investigators infiltrated and dismantled a highly secretive, sophisticated and organised network of international child sex offenders. Operation Achilles commenced in early 2006, and was finalised in February 2008 with the simultaneous execution of warrants across the world, resulting in the arrest of offenders in Australia, the United States, Germany and the United Kingdom.

Importantly, more than 40 children were removed from sexually abusive situations.

## Traffic management

### Precious lives lost

Despite a strong focus on road safety, the road toll in the 2007 calendar year was a disappointing outcome that has taken too many precious lives from us. In that year, 360 people were killed on Queensland roads—25 more deaths than in 2006.

A number of significant initiatives have been implemented by the QPS over the last six months to address this, and I am pleased to report that the road toll for this half year to 30 June 2008 has been reduced when compared to the previous year by 29. Making our roads safer remains a key priority for the Service. We are committed to the National Road Safety Strategy 2001-2010, which seeks to reduce national road fatalities by 40%, to a rate of 5.6 fatalities per 100 000 of population. While this is a very tough target, it is also a very worthwhile one. Through 2008-09 the QPS will continue to work with others to develop strategies in an endeavour to reduce road trauma.

## Professional standards and ethical practice

### Preventing corruption

The Queensland public expect and deserve the highest standard of ethics and integrity from members of the QPS.

In December a whole of Service Corruption Prevention Plan was introduced. The purpose of the plan is to foster and maintain community confidence in the integrity of the Service through provision of a framework to build a corruption resistant culture within the QPS.

2009 will see the 20th anniversary of the release of the Fitzgerald Report. In an organisation of nearly 14 000 people it is unfortunately inevitable that some will seriously err. It is essential that those people are identified and dealt with quickly and that there is never again institutionalised widespread high level corruption. We also need a discipline process that is balanced, fair, timely and sensible.

## Corporate resource management

### Our people are important

There has been a strong focus on human resources during the year with the QPS investing in excess of \$4 million to deliver a comprehensive suite of services supporting our employees' physical and mental health.

## Looking to the future

### Healthy workplaces

This focus on our people is set to continue, with the Healthy Workplaces Project. The project, which will span three years, is expected to realise outcomes such as improved workforce practices, improved health, safety and wellbeing, improved delivery of policing services and the development and implementation of a sustainable model for building leadership capability.

### Skilled workplaces

Another significant investment in our people is the \$450 million project that will deliver a state of the art Police Academy at Wacol by 2012. This will help position us to meet the challenges of modern day policing. The Academy will be built on a 106 hectare site and will have an educational and an operational precinct to support training in the latest investigative techniques and technologies.

We can look forward to the future with a high degree of confidence. In closing, I would like to assure the people of Queensland of the Service's continuing commitment to ensuring their safety and security across our State.



Bob Atkinson APM  
Commissioner