



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ON EL ARISH POLICE STATION

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, has strongly encouraged the people of the township of El Arish to attend an important community consultation meeting this week with the Queensland Police Service to discuss the future of the El Arish Police Station.

Mr Cripps, who has been campaigning for over 12 months to have the vacant Officer in Charge position at the El Arish police station filled, said the QPS had finally agreed to progress a decision on the issue by undertaking consultation with the local community.

“The Officer in Charge position at the El Arish police station has been vacant since January 2010. I have been seeking answers about when the position would be filled for more than a year and been concerned about the possibility of the station being closed” said Mr Cripps.

“I have exchanged correspondence with the Police Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner and asked Questions on Notice of the Minister for Police, but for more than a year, each of them has simply replied that the matter was ‘under review’” he said.

“I met with the QPS last Friday and they advised that a community consultation meeting would be held at the **El Arish Memorial Hall on Wednesday 27th October at 11 am** to give the people of the El Arish community and opportunity to have their say” said Mr Cripps.

“I have a very strong view that the vacant position at the El Arish police station should be advertised and filled immediately. I believe that the township of El Arish needs and deserves a police presence to keep the community safe and secure” he said.

“I have been worried that the ongoing delay with filling the OIC position at El Arish was an indication that the QPS was considering closing the station. The possibilities being considered as part of this ‘review’ do include closing the El Arish station” said Mr Cripps.

“I strongly encourage the people of El Arish to attend this community consultation meeting to ensure they have their say about the future of policing in their town. This is the opportunity to voice their views and express their concerns about this matter” he said.

Mr Cripps said he hoped the QPS would listen carefully to the people of El Arish.

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