



Commissioner's foreword

Sadly, this year two officers, Sergeant Daniel Arthur Stiller and Detective Senior Constable Damian Leeding, were killed in the line of duty. These tragic losses demonstrate the danger police face every day in safeguarding the community.

A key role in disaster management

The State's disaster management system was tested to the limit during the summer months with extreme and violent weather conditions affecting most of the State. These disasters closely followed amendments to the *Disaster Management Act 2010* that gave the Queensland Police Service (QPS) new roles in disaster response coordination at both district and State level.

Our people worked long and hard through this period, providing vital disaster responses and coordination, while continuing to uphold law and order.

I extend my thanks and appreciation to all who contributed to the response efforts with the Queensland Police Service. This included all the Emergency Services, the Australian Defence Forces, other federal, State and local government agencies, the media, and individual volunteers and volunteer organisations. I also acknowledge the interstate police contingents from New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia who conducted joint patrols with our members, targeting looting as part of Operation Safeguard. Finally, I thank the Australian Federal Police for their specialist support in the Lockyer Valley and in Far North Queensland.

Reducing lives lost on our roads

The road toll for 2010 was 249—the lowest fatality rate recorded in any calendar year since accurate records began in 1952. This figure is 82 fatalities, or nearly 25%, fewer than the previous year. It was also very pleasing to see we met the target set by the National Road Safety Strategy, to reduce the road toll rate to less than 5.6 fatalities per 100 000 population by 2010. A few years ago this seemed an almost impossible goal, but it has now been shown that it can be achieved.



Bob Atkinson APM, Commissioner of Police

A range of activities have contributed to this result, including random roadside alcohol and drug testing, vehicle impoundment legislation, traffic camera operations, more stringent licensing requirements of young drivers and partnerships with other agencies. Every road fatality is both a terrible tragedy and almost always avoidable. We must continue to make every effort to reduce the loss of life on our roads.

Reducing crime

During 2010-11 compared to the previous financial year there was a 6% decrease in the rate of total offences against the person, a 4% increase in the rate of total offences against property and an 11% decrease in the rate of total other offences. The overall crime rate is now significantly lower in many areas than it was 11 years ago in 2000. Over the eleven year period 2000-01 to 2010-11, the State has recorded decreases in the rate of offences against the person (25%) and offences against property (46%) which has resulted in a decrease of 30% in the overall crime rate.

Improving vital police infrastructure

Work is progressing on the construction of the new Academy at Wacol, with the driver training facility opened during the year. When it is completed, the Academy's state-of-the-art facilities will be key to enabling our people to meet the challenges of policing in the 21st century.

The new Policelink Contact Centre commenced operations in August 2010. Policelink now provides enhanced response management for people reporting non-urgent matters to police.

This financial year also saw the establishment of a permanent telecommunications interception facility, enabling the QPS to monitor a wide range of communications used to facilitate crime. This is an important tool and has already contributed to arrests, seizures of significant amounts of illegal drugs and the identification of proceeds of crime.


Targeting anti-social behaviour

Amendments to the *Liquor Act 1992* came into force during the year, enabling drink safe precinct trials in Townsville, Fortitude Valley and Surfers Paradise. These trials are a whole of Government initiative, providing a coordinated and focused response to reduce levels of alcohol-related violence and its ramifications.

Legislative changes have also provided the capacity to issue fines for public nuisance offences across Queensland, to improve policing of social order issues. The amendments allow police to write a ticket as a viable alternative to arrest for dealing with public nuisance behaviour. This followed a trial in 2009, which found the use of ticketing was an effective way to divert offenders from the criminal justice system and improve workload efficiencies for both the courts and police service.

In closing

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all members of the QPS for their continued hard work, dedication and commitment. While the past year was certainly challenging, we can approach the future confident in our organisation and in our ability to discharge our essential and fundamental role of providing safety, security and support for the people of Queensland.



Bob Atkinson APM
Commissioner