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13 JUN 2007

Mr Robert Needham
Chairperson
Crime and Misconduct Commission
GPO Box 3123
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Mr Needham

Thank you for your letter dated 15 May 2007, regarding the Crime and Misconduct Commission's (CMC) enquiry into policing in Indigenous communities.

As you may be aware, Mr Scott Spencer, Director-General, Department of Natural Resources and Water and myself are the Government co-champions for the Indigenous community of Woorabinda, located in central Queensland.

Your correspondence indicates that the CMC will consult with key groups in Woorabinda and we would strongly support that process. There are a number of groups within Woorabinda such as the Woorabinda Council, Community Justice Group, Anglicare, Men's Group and Women's Group to name a few, involved in diversionary and criminal justice services. These organisations have passionate views and a strong commitment to improving policing and criminal justice services for the community.

Through our involvement with Woorabinda, a number of issues related to law and order have been identified including:

- diversionary options for young offenders including support for culturally and community based options;
- alcohol management issues;
- continued implementation of crime prevention and community safety initiatives such as Neighbourhood Watch;
- the need for community drug education and awareness programs;
- the level of youth suicide; and
- a community advisory group to Council is to be re-established, including linkages with elders and key community members.

While this is not an exhaustive list and further information will come to light through your discussions with key groups in the community, I trust this information will be useful prior to your consultations with Woorabinda.

Creating a safer Queensland

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Cnr Kedron Park Road & Park Road
Kedron Qld 4031

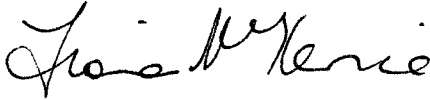
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Should further information or clarification be required in relation to this response, please contact Mr John Holt, Executive Manager, Indigenous Coordination Unit, Strategic Policy and Executive Services Division on telephone number (07) 4039 8199 or via email jholt@emergency.qld.gov.au, who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona McKersie', written in a cursive style.

Fiona McKersie ESM
Director-General