

RESPONSE TO PETITION

Petition Number: 507

Petition Sponsored by: Joe McCracken

Directed to: Minister for Police

Tabled on: Tuesday, 18 June 2024

Petition Grievance:

The Petition of certain citizens of the State of Victoria draws to the attention of the Legislative Council that one-person police stations provide assurance for the regional communities they serve.

Not having to travel to attend larger busy stations to engage with police is important for small, often remote communities. These communities need peace of mind and to feel safe and secure in their homes.

Clause 184.8 of the Victoria Police (Police Officers, Protective Services Officers, Police Reservists and Police Recruits) Enterprise Agreement 2019 currently states one-person station employees can only be rostered away from their response zone in emergencies or critical situations and only if the employee's area does not suffer in terms of provision of service to his or her local community.

Victoria Police has lodged claims with the union that would amend clause 184, increase the mobility for deployment and rostering of one-person station employees. If successful, employees from 98 one-person stations in small towns across Victoria may be forced from their posts and rostered out to larger regional centres and cities, which would undermine the security of rural communities. With more than 800 police vacancies in Victoria, closing these stations cannot be the solution.

Petition Action:

The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council call on the Government and Victoria Police to guarantee that no amendments are made to the Victoria Police (Police Officers, Protective Services Officers, Police Reservists and Police Recruits) Enterprise Agreement 2019 to remove employees from one-person police stations which would put community safety at risk.

Reply:

Single member police stations remain an important part of regional communities. Their work in keeping the community safe and providing assistance in many local matters is valued.

The location and deployment of police officers is a matter for the Chief Commissioner of Police. The Chief Commissioner has been clear that Victoria Police are not removing police from single officer stations.

An in-principle agreement of the EBA has been reached between Victoria Police and The Police Association and I thank all involved for their hard work and ongoing common goal of keeping the Victorian community safe.



Hon Anthony Carbines MP
Minister for Police
Minister for Crime Prevention
Minister for Racing