Good morning All

You are probably all aware that Loch, Nyora, Poowong and Lang Lang is currently in the grip of a series of break ins, thefts and wilful damage that we have not seen in this district for some time. It almost seems that since the Covid-19 lockdowns there has been an escalation of this type of crime. Several businesses and homes in Loch and the surrounding district have been broken into on more than one occasion resulting in theft of money and goods. Vehicles and tradesman’s tools are being stolen on too regular an occasion. The Loch Memorial Reserve has been the victim of cases of not only theft but numerous cases of vandalism and wilful damage. There is also talk albeit unsubstantiated that the Reserve maybe a drug drop off and collection point. To add to this our “volunteer” cleaners are now finding hypodermic syringes in the toilets on a regular basis. This has resulted in the closure of these toilets due to safety concerns.

I have also been informed that the likes of Poowong, Nyora and Lang Lang are currently experiencing an increasing crime rate.

One of the main problems that we collectively face is that there is no Police presence in the district apart from a part time Policeman lives in Loch that is due to retire at the end of the year with no mention of a replacement.

Any crime that is currently reported in this district needs to be done so to either Korumburra, Wonthaggi or Pakenham. If that crime is of a serious nature it can take a minimum of half an hour for any Police to arrive. This in itself has created a lot of angst in our Community.

What we hope to achieve is to ensure that a full time Policeman is appointed in Loch once Gary Slink retires

Myself and Ron Barnacle (President Loch Development Association) recently met with our Local MP Danny O’Brien to discuss this issue, Danny advised we write to State Police Minister Lisa Neville to see if anything can be done to perhaps ensure that Loch does not lose a police presence in the town / district.

Attached is the letter that I wrote to Lisa Neville. I would encourage you all to give this some consideration and perhaps do likewise. I would also ask you to pass my letter on to any Community Group in your area that you believe would benefit from this cause.

Lisa Neville
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Kind Regards
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