

---

## Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

Thursday, May 4, 2017

### **POLICE MINISTER TO VISIT**

Independent Member for Shepparton District Suzanna Sheed is pleased that the Minister for Police, Lisa Neville has agreed to visit the electorate, accepting her invitation following concerns raised with her regarding police numbers and visibility in the District.

“I have heard from a number of my constituents who remain anxious about what appears to be a lack of police resources on the ground in the electorate, despite several public meetings with leading police members,” Ms Sheed said.

Minister Neville will be able to hear these concerns first hand.

“Residents of Tatura and Mooroopna are frequently faced with closed doors at the local police stations, and say they rarely see a police officer or a police vehicle patrolling the area,” Ms Sheed said.

“In the meantime, our crime rates continue to climb.

“The latest statistics show an overall increase of 9.4 per cent of reported crime since 2015 in the Greater Shepparton area.

Drug offences have risen 9.7 per cent,” she said.

“I have heard from reputable sources that staffing at some of our stations is inadequate.

“I’ve had constructive discussions with the Victorian Police Association and continue dialog to convey my community’s concerns and the possible solutions.

“Police safety is, of course, of utmost importance, however the two up rule has decimated resources at our regional stations.

If this rule is to persist, there must be adequate resourcing at our regional stations to compensate for the policy,” Ms Sheed said.

“While our police members have a right to feel safe, so too, do we have a right to feel safe in our homes, and in our street and a visible police presence strongly contributes to this.

I look forward to welcoming Minister Neville to the Shepparton District in early June to further our discussions and consider solutions to address our concerns.

We must be able to have confidence in knowing when we pick up the phone, or go to the station, a police officer will be there when we need them most.”

Ends

**Media contact**

Phone: 0358 316 944    Email: [suzanna.sheed@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:suzanna.sheed@parliament.vic.gov.au)