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Police Shoot and Kill Armed Man During Townsville Confrontation

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– Categories: Crime



A man was fatally shot by police in Townsville, Queensland, on Saturday morning after allegedly advancing toward officers while armed with a machete and knife. The incident occurred on The Strand in North Ward and is currently under investigation by internal and independent oversight bodies.

According to the **Queensland Police Service (QPS)**, officers responded to emergency calls around 10 a.m., reporting a man brandishing multiple weapons near McKinley Street. Upon arrival, police say the man confronted them while wielding both a machete and a knife.

Despite attempts to de-escalate the situation, officers reportedly fired at the man, striking him in the chest. He was pronounced dead at the scene despite immediate medical attention.

Superintendent Chris Lawson confirmed that officers were faced with a threatening situation, stating, “As a result of the confrontation that occurred, that male person was shot.” He added that police protocol allows for the use of lethal force when there is a genuine fear of death or serious bodily harm, either to the officers or the public.

Lawson emphasized the dangers officers face in the line of duty, noting that this incident underscores the difficult decisions police must sometimes make. “This matter today will serve as a stark reminder that the job that the police do every day across our state is dangerous and on occasions we are called to use lethal force,” he said during a press briefing.

The investigation into the shooting is being conducted by the **Ethical Standards Command**, with oversight from the **Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC)**—Queensland’s independent body tasked with monitoring police accountability.

Lawson declined to provide detailed information about the number of shots fired, whether a Taser was deployed, or how many officers were involved, citing the early and sensitive stage of the investigation. He also noted that the man’s identity, including his age and whether he was a resident, had not yet been confirmed.

This is the second police shooting in Townsville in recent weeks. In June, officers shot a 17-year-old girl in the abdomen at a hotel in West End after she allegedly threatened them with a knife. In that incident, no police or civilians were injured. The girl survived and has since been charged with assaulting an officer.

As Queensland continues to grapple with rising public safety concerns, incidents like this highlight the complex challenges law enforcement faces in rapidly evolving situations. While officers must be held to a high standard, it’s equally important to acknowledge the risks they encounter daily, especially when confronting individuals allegedly armed and threatening violence.

Further updates will be provided as more details become available through the ongoing investigation.