

DRUGS — REGIONAL AREAS

**892. Hon COLIN TINCKNELL to the minister representing the Minister for Police:**

The latest Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission report on drugs revealed that regional WA has the highest rate of illegal drug consumption of any regional areas in Australia.

- (1) What is the government doing in regional areas to combat illegal drug use?
- (2) What is being done in fly in, fly out areas to reduce illegal drug use?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Police.

- (1)–(2) The latest Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission report indicates an 11 per cent drop in methamphetamine use in regional WA since the previous report, well below the peak of regional WA's meth consumption in August and December 2016. This government has provided funding of more than \$100 million from 2017–18 to 2020–21 for the meth border force, as part of the meth action plan, to provide 100 extra police officers and 20 specialist and support staff to disrupt the supply of meth. In addition, new technologies such as the meth truck, the TruNarc drug detection device and portable mobile phone downloading devices are deployed across the state to support mobile drug interception activities. The Western Australia Police Force advises that it has been targeting known distribution points within both the metropolitan area and regional Western Australia, with a record 1.56 tonnes of meth intercepted during the 2017–18 financial year, most of which was recovered in regional WA. Operations to disrupt meth drug rings will continue across WA.