

POLICE — WAGES POLICY

**191. Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE to the Premier:**

Can the Premier outline to the house why the state government has taken the decision to immediately grant police officers the \$1 000-a-year pay rise that they are owed?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

Thank you, member for Thornlie. We confront an unprecedented challenge. The job of police officers is very important, and it has never been more important than it is now.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** They provide calm amid chaos. They provide reassurance for the anxious. The work that they do is invaluable. As we know, the government has been in negotiations with the WA Police Union for some time. It is disappointing that there has been no agreement at this point in time, but as a government we cannot let this drag on. The uncertainty hanging over the heads of thousands of hardworking police officers out there today, protecting our community, needed to end. That is why today we have decided that police officers will get the pay rise they are owed: a \$1 000 pay rise, per annum. This pay offer was supported by 62 per cent of those police officers who voted. The pay rise will be delivered immediately. They will also be back paid to the date the last agreement expired on 1 July. That means that police officers will get the back pay they are owed in one lump sum straight into their bank accounts. There is no doubt that for many officers this will provide some relief during these difficult times. Hopefully it will ensure that officers can remain focused on their job of responding to the crisis.

As Premier, I could not in good conscience allow this to drag on and deny the vast majority of police officers who voted for this offer the pay rise that they are owed and they requested. Meanwhile, the government will continue work with the police union to resolve the broader industrial agreement. We are committed to working respectfully and constructively with the police union. However, today's decision to immediately give a pay rise to the police had to be made. It is a recognition of the crucial work that they do and it aims to provide certainty for those officers and their families. I want to once again thank police officers for continuing to come to work and protect our community. They are doing a great job and I am very grateful for their service.