



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Western Australia Police Force

The Committee asked:

1. I refer you to Committee report 73 at page 11 which was tabled in May 2018 concerning last year's Budget estimates. One of the observations the Committee made was the time and effort Members spent navigating 'significant issues impacting the agency' by reference to bullet points. This year I note your agency has 10 bullet points and 24 dash points spread across two pages which makes referencing onerous. Are you receptive to replacing bullet points and dashes with paragraph numbering and sub paragraph numbering in next year's Budget Papers?
2. I refer you to Committee report 73 at page 8 which was tabled in May 2018 concerning last year's Budget estimates. One of the observations the Committee made was how an agency's financial statements do not specify which projects the Royalties for Regions sub-fund is funding. Are you receptive to including a Table in next year's financial statements that identifies individual projects funded from each sub-fund?
3. I refer to the Statement of Cashflows table on page 341. I note that you derive some income from 'regulatory fees and fines' and 'sales of goods and services'
 - (a) Do you allow a person to pay fees and fines with credit or debit cards
 - (b) If so, when a person pays a fee or fine by credit card or debit card
 - (i) What surcharge do you apply to process that card payment
 - (ii) Do you impose the same surcharge irrespective of which type card is used
 - (iii) Is that surcharge authorised by a legislative Instrument, for example, by regulations
 - (iv) What steps have you taken to ensure compliance with Reserve Bank of Australia Standard No.3 2016 titled 'Scheme rules relating to Merchant Pricing for credit, debit and prepaid card transactions'
 - (v) As per the Standard, is your surcharge no greater than the average cost of acceptance of the lowest cost system, not an average of all costs systems?

1 – 2. The Western Australia Police Force advise that the format of the budget papers used by the Western Australia Police Force complies with the instructions provided by the Department of Treasury. Questions in relation to the layout of future budget papers should be referred to the Treasurer for consideration.

3. (a-b) The Western Australia Police Force advise Australia Post is contracted to provide this function. The surcharge, around \$0.00555 per dollar, is not passed on to the public.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Western Australia Police Force

Hon Diane Evers MLC asked:

1. I refer to the comments during the 2018-19 Estimates hearings regarding single vehicles veering off road where speed and/or drugs/alcohol are not involved. There was no mention of situations where it may have been the intention of the driver to crash:
 - (a) Can car crashes where it is the intention of the driver to crash be determined from the evidence at the scene of the crash;
 - (b) If yes to (a) what percent of single vehicle country road crashes are determined to be intentional, and; and
 - (c) Will the new road safety strategy for WA beyond 2020 work with the Mental Health Commission to address the issues that may lead people to use a car crash to end their lives?

Response

The Western Australia Police Force advises that evidence at the scene of a crash may alert attending officers to the possibility of the crash being the result of a deliberate act. Examples may include a vehicle crashing into a tree with no signs of braking, suicide notes, or evidence from eye witnesses. Where it is determined the crash was the result of a deliberate act the crashes are not included in totals of reportable road crash incidents. If the crash results in a fatality, the cause of the death is determined and recorded by the relevant Coroner. While an individual investigation may show the suspected cause of a crash, the broader WA Police databases are not categorised to show numbers of suspected deliberate crashes.

The Road Safety Commission advises that the Mental Health Commission will be consulted during the development of the new road safety strategy.

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ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Western Australia Police Force

Hon Tjorn Sibma MLC asked:

1. Page 332 refers to WA Police enforcing traffic laws and targeting driver behaviour which contributes to fatal and serious crashes, and I ask:
 - (a) What proportion of the WA Police Force is involved in enforcing traffic laws and targeting driver behaviour;
 - (b) Is there a model for determining this allocation;
 - (c) Has the proportion changed over the years; and
 - (d) Are there any differences between WA Police allocated to these tasks in metropolitan and regional areas, and if so, why?
2. I note the \$2.8 million for the Expansion of the Automated Traffic Enforcement Strategy as shown in the Spending Changes Table on page 331, and ask:
 - (a) What exactly is this strategy;
 - (b) Why are there no funds allocated beyond 2018-19; and
 - (c) What evaluation will be undertaken of the strategy, when and by whom?

1 (a-d). The Western Australian Police Force advise that all WA Police officers are expected to enforce traffic laws and target driver behaviour that contributes to fatal and serious crashes, as witnessed or reported and where the officers are able to take appropriate action. Additionally, State Traffic commands the dedicated operational units that focus on delivering or supporting traffic policing and dealing with the consequences of dangerous driver behaviour. Examples include the Traffic Enforcement Group, Regional Enforcement Unit, and Major Crash Investigation. Whilst all officers are expected to undertake traffic duties where appropriate, the allocation of dedicated traffic staff is decided through reviews and discussions between the relevant Portfolio Heads and the Deputy Commissioners. In the Metropolitan, officers from State Traffic who target driver behaviour which contributes to fatal and serious crashes contribute significantly to traffic enforcement. In Regional Western Australia, each police district has dedicated traffic officers and traffic vehicles that conduct specifically traffic related duties and tasks. The delivery of the Government's commitment to a Regional Enforcement Unit is increasing patrols within a 400 km radius of Perth, where most crashes occur. Additionally:

- State Breath and Drug Operations deploy to Regional Western Australia to conduct operations.
- During holiday periods and long weekends, enhanced effort is applied with the rostering of traffic and patrol inquiry officers to provide extra patrols and presence.

2. (a-c) The Road Safety Commission advise that the Expansion of the Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE) Strategy was approved in the 2016-17 budget. The strategy and program relate to the deployment of Automated Traffic Enforcement technologies. These technologies include mobile cameras, red light speed cameras and fixed speed cameras. Budget Allocations from the Road Trauma Trust Account (RTTA) are ordinarily made on an annual basis. An inter-agency committee, chaired by the Road Safety Commissioner, is examining future options for the ATE.

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ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Western Australia Police Force

Hon Alison Xamon MLC asked:

1. I refer to page 332, Significant Issues Impacting the Agency, first dot point regarding collaborating with partners, and specifically to the Mental Health Co-response team, and I ask:
 - (a) How much funding has been allocated to the team for 2018-19 and into the forward estimates;
 - (b) Do you intend to expand this team; and
 - (c) If yes to b):
 - (i) when; and
 - (ii) where will the expansion occur?
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1. (a-c) The Western Australia Police Force advise the estimated budget for 2018/19 builds on the 2017/18 total budget, based on the current model. A joint agency Business Case is being prepared for consideration by government.