

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND JUSTICE STANDING COMMITTEE

INQUIRY INTO THE PROTECTION OF CROWDED PLACES FROM TERRORIST ATTACKS



**TRANSCRIPT OF EVIDENCE
TAKEN AT PERTH
WEDNESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2018**

SESSION TWO

Members

**Mr P.A. Katsambanis (Chairman)
Mr M.J. Folkard (Deputy Chairman)
Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup
Mr A. Krsticevic
Mr D.T. Punch**

Hearing commenced at 11.05 am

Mr GEOFF GLASS

Chief Executive Officer, City of South Perth, examined:

Mr DAVID ALLAN FYFE

Infrastructure Planning and Emergency Management Officer, City of South Perth, examined:

Mr PATRICK QUIGLEY

Manager, Community, Culture and Recreation, City of South Perth, examined:

Mr PETER FRANS JORIS ROAEN

Event Manager, City of South Perth, examined:

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you for coming in today. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank you for agreeing to appear to provide evidence in relation to our inquiry into the protection of crowded places in Western Australia from terrorist acts. My name is Peter Katsambanis and I am the Chairman of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee. The other members of the committee who are here today are the member for Dawesville, Zak Kirkup; the member for Bunbury, Don Punch; and the member for Carine, Tony Krsticevic. It is important that you understand that any deliberate misleading of this committee may be regarded as a contempt of Parliament. Some of the questions that we ask today may require answers that contain sensitive or confidential information. If this is the case, the committee is able to take evidence in closed session. Hansard will continue to make a transcript of the session but the transcript will not be publicly available unless the committee or the Legislative Assembly resolves to authorise its release. Your evidence is protected by parliamentary privilege. However, this privilege does not apply to anything you might say outside of today's proceedings.

Would you be able to introduce yourselves for the record, please?

Mr GLASS: Thank you very much, Chairman and members of the committee, and we appreciate the opportunity to be invited to speak to you. On my left is David Fyfe. David is the city's infrastructure planning officer. His portfolio responsibility includes emergency management, so he is the city's representative in relation to emergency management incidents, events or forums, including acting as executive officer to our local emergency management committee. He then liaises with other internal and external stakeholders in that regard. He also reviews all emergency plans and procedures in relation to the city's involvement with large-scale events. I gather our involvement here is because of the Australia Day and the Skyworks event and that experience, so he has that responsibility. Patrick Quigley is the manager of community, culture and recreation. He is also experienced in event management and has expertise there. His portfolio includes management for all community events and the use of facilities in public spaces. Peter Roaen is a contractor that we employ, and have employed for the best part of a decade, to oversee the event management specifically for the Australia Day event. He has 34 years in event management and has been with us, as I said, for a decade. He prepares and develops the risk management plan for Australia Day, including the recommendations from the protecting crowded places from terrorism national strategy.

Specifically, in terms of emergency management, we do have —

The CHAIRMAN: Are you moving on to an opening statement?

Mr GLASS: That is the three of us, yes.

The CHAIRMAN: We have limited time today, so if you want to make an opening statement, I would expect it to be very brief.

Mr GLASS: In that sense, we have an emergency management committee that involves a range of parties that we liaise with—the police, DFES, the health department, St John Ambulance, Perth Zoo et cetera and other major stakeholders. We have undertaken an audit of crowded places and what we regard as critical infrastructure sites within the city, and they have been identified. We do specifically develop event risk management plans in relation to our facilitated events. So the main event, as I say, is the Australia Day citizenship ceremony, which the Governor attends and which then becomes the event for the Skyworks show. This year, in our view, was the largest in a decade. Our estimates were that there were about 150 000 people on our side of the foreshore. The other major event, in fact, is occurring this weekend, which is a public concert that happens to coincide with the Commonwealth Games baton relay, which is running along the foreshore as well, and attendances might be in the order of 10 000. A lot of planning is done for that and there is a whole range of mitigation strategies that we put in place to prepare for that. There are also then events that we do not manage. It is a very public space that is available for hire and they can literally number in the hundreds and they can be from modest to quite large public gatherings. I think we have a reasonable understanding of what our roles and responsibilities are in this area including, as one of those areas, in relation to terrorism. We are happy to take any questions.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Chief executive, I am interested, obviously, in Australia Day, given that that seems to be the largest event that brings people to your shores. We had the City of Perth here last week to present to the same committee and it is very clear that they have a significant emergency management plan set up, very close coordination, it seems, with WA police and the overall emergency and first responders that exist. They have very hardened infrastructure in relation to how they go about hostile vehicle management. There is a significant deployment of CCTV cameras that exist already without mobile deployment. I look across the river to South Perth and see that we are operating in a general parkland environment, so not nearly the same requirements in terms of closing off roads and all that, although I know you do. I am keen to understand the hardened infrastructure that the City of Perth deploys on a permanent or temporary basis to deal with the number of people that are there and also to understand your interaction during the Skyworks with those same sort of first responders.

Mr GLASS: So the reference would be the City of South Perth. I think it is probably best to go to Peter, in the first instance, and then maybe David, who sits in the event management space, to make comment on that.

Mr ROAEN: The first thing that is important is to understand that the City of South Perth is part, in fact, of what we call the Skyworks committee, which means that in preparation for this event, we meet on a constant basis. We start a year ahead. Whenever there are meetings between the City of Perth, WA police, the Department of Health and DFES et cetera, we are there as well. In fact, I am there—I am part of the committee—so it is not that we are talking about two separate events. When we are talking emergency management and preparing for all kinds of possible disasters that can happen, we do that together with the City of Perth; it is not a separate unit. That is very important. Of course, things that are done on the City of Perth side are different than what is happening in the City of South Perth because we indeed have a very open parkland and we have a residential area, which is completely different from the situation in Perth.

I can go into a lot of detail. What we have done for this edition is we looked at all the new guidelines that were published last year, 2017, by the Australia–New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee. We went through every guideline and we have looked at which ones are relevant for the City of South Perth and, more specifically, for Australia Day. We are now talking, of course, about counterterrorism, when I am talking about these guidelines. We looked at what is relevant and what is doable, because there are a lot of things that would be nice to be able to do. We could have a CCTV camera in every tree along the foreshore, but we are talking about kilometres of open parkland—well, it is not doable. So we looked at what is doable but also what is affordable, because you could say, “That’s doable, but it’s not affordable.” We had to look at a lot of different things when preparing for this event. In fact, we have made a list, but it is still a long list, of new measures that we have taken since this year, which was Australia Day 2018, resulting from the new guidelines and having to do with security, traffic management, hostile vehicle management, CCTV, introducing more rangers, introducing photo ID for staff, better protection of certain technical areas, different briefings for our staff and volunteers, and increasing staff numbers at certain spots. There is a lot, and, I must say, I can go into more specifics, if there is a specific question.

The CHAIRMAN: Would you be able to provide that list to us as supplementary information; and, if it needs to be provided on a closed basis, please let us know that.

Mr ROAEN: The other thing is when talking details, one of the things that comes out of the security audit, which was also one of the new audits that had been released last year by the federal government and which we have done for this event, is that we are being asked to look at better protection of our details of these plans and better protection of documents. There is even a suggestion to encrypt these documents. We have not done that, but most of our documents now are password protected. We are not just distributing risk management plans to other actors without password protection. We do that all in a different way since this year, in fact.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Again—sorry to labour the point; I look forward to that supplementary information—I am trying to get an understanding of the capability of any first responders’ ability to respond on the South Perth side of things. I note in the submission provided to this committee that, for example, you hired some mobile solar-powered CCTV cameras for the last event. I am keen to understand the integration of the network and how that exists. Similarly, I suppose then in that case, they are doable but not affordable, where those exposures are. I look forward to the submission in that case.

Mr GLASS: I am happy to be corrected but I think there is only one CCTV camera on that entire length of the foreshore.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Sorry, there is only one camera covering the whole of South Perth?

Mr GLASS: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: One camera covering the entire strip of South Perth?

Mr GLASS: Yes, I do not think there is any CCTV along there, so anything that has to be brought in is all temporary infrastructure. Essentially it has to all be brought in because it is otherwise just open space. It is not an urban environment that you are already building upon.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I appreciate that. I imagine in Kings Park, for example, there is quite of number of closed circuit television cameras that monitor the public realm. Is it not a concern for the city that there is only one camera?

Mr GLASS: We are currently doing a CCTV strategy. We have previously sought funding for CCTV cameras along that area but have not been successful, so we are developing a strategy to enhance

that. The only camera that I am aware of is the one where the ferry lands, but that is really looking at patronage on and off the ferry.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I imagine that that is the PTA in that case rather than the city?

Mr GLASS: Yes, it is PTA.

The CHAIRMAN: The city itself does not have a network of CCTV cameras?

Mr GLASS: No.

The CHAIRMAN: Okay. You mentioned all of the changes that have come about because of national implications around counterterrorism. The federal government and the agencies have brought out these rules, and you have looked at them and started implementing them. This is not a criticism of anyone, but if an agency—you or any other agency—did not implement these changes, who audits that? Who comes back and says to the City of South Perth or the City of Perth, or someone else, that they have not complied with those new national requirements?

Mr ROAEN: The big problem I see as event manager when dealing with such a big event which brings a lot of risks, because we are talking about 150 000 people, so it might be a target, is that I am mainly dealing now—one of these binders is about this. This binder is the new guidelines. I am dealing with guidelines; I am not really dealing with rules. That makes it difficult at the moment. We are working with a lot of new things that come towards us, which is plenty of guidelines, but they do not really tell us exactly how to do things. They are guidelines and when we are talking heavy vehicle management, for instance, they will often say, “There are these and these possibilities; you might look at these materials to stop a vehicle”, but then I will do my job at my end and I will see that in WA that equipment is not available, so I have to look into alternatives—alternatives that then in the guidelines will be listed as something that is not really effective but might be better than having nothing. I am not only talking for myself, I talk with a lot of other event managers who are in my business. At the moment it is not easy. We are working with guidelines. A lot of these guidelines are not very precise, and when they are precise it is not always possible to implement them because we do not have the equipment available in WA needed to do it.

Mr QUIGLEY: Just to add to what Peter is saying, the national strategy does include some quite useful documents. There are some checklists in there that we have found useful. In terms of the auditing process, the city takes an annual risk assessment audit of all of the risk management plans that we do undertake. As new risks are identified—obviously terrorism is one that is a new risk because it is something that has been in the media a lot only in recent years—local government is now having risk mitigation against these risks. Like any risk management planning, we look at what are the highest risks and we mitigate appropriately as part of the risk management assessment process.

The CHAIRMAN: It is essentially self-auditing or self-monitoring.

[11.20 am]

Mr QUIGLEY: It is.

Mr FYFE: It is more than that. The Office of Emergency Management each year does a capability survey in terms of emergency management processes for all the state and we contribute to that. We are required to report on all of the 27 identified hazards that they have under their umbrella, of which terrorism is one, and they send out a survey each year to all local governments and all of the hazard management agencies, all the other agencies involved in the emergency management, to get a picture of where we are at with all of those. As far as I am aware there has not yet been a focus in that survey on terrorism but I am sure that, courtesy of this sort of forum, that will be coming.

Mr QUIGLEY: There are many different levels. There is a self-assessment that the city undertakes, but then there is also an assessment that is undertaken by the key stakeholders like FESA and the police. They do more than the risk management plans.

The CHAIRMAN: Do the police provide you with any guidelines around event management?

Mr ROAEN: I was just going to say something about that because self-audit probably sounds too limited. For the 2018 Australia Day celebrations we have done a big review because of all of these new guidelines. We have come up with a plan and we have then invited WA Police, which is the counterterrorism and dignitary protection unit and the major events unit. We have invited also the Department of Health, because they are the main stakeholders when we are talking about these new guidelines. We invited them to the civic centre in South Perth and presented them with our proposal, which was then not the final document. We said, "That is what we are planning to do this year. What do you think?" I know that for WA Police it is not an audit—it is not their role to do that—but they were happy to come and listen and to comment on this. Before going to the final document, we have liaised about our plans with these stakeholders.

The CHAIRMAN: You have done the right thing, but there was no obligation on you to do that.

Mr ROAEN: No.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: In terms of that level of discussion that you have with police, are you as a group satisfied that there is sufficient rigour of testing of those procedures that you have in place in relation to terrorism from an audit point of view?

Mr ROAEN: I do not know. Again, that is a bit of a problem with all these new guidelines. Probably a lot of them have not really been tested—not in our situation. We have never been confronted with a terrorist incident, so it is hard.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: Are these guidelines related at all to the work of the crowded places forum?

Mr ROAEN: Yes, it is, and the Australia–New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: I would like to go back to the CCTV question. Am I correct in hearing that there is normally one camera along the foreshore parklands?

Mr ROAEN: Not on Australia Day.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: No, on Australia Day there are additional ones that are hired.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: How many?

Mr D.T. PUNCH: That was my question! How many would you hire on the day?

Mr ROAEN: We got eight extra.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: What is the cost of the hiring?

Mr ROAEN: I would say that it is around \$12 000.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: What is the average cost of putting the cameras in?

Mr ROAEN: I do not know.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: I just wonder why you would be waiting for grant applications when it seems to me that there is a risk issue there. Why would the city just not fund it? Why would it not be a priority?

Mr FYFE: I think one of the key issues for that is that the issue of terrorism has only recently really been identified as a risk; there are time lags in implementing.

Mr GLASS: I would have thought they would have been driven more in terms of antisocial and crime rather than terrorism per se.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: You have got it for 150 000 people on that site.

Mr GLASS: That is right. It is a new era. What we have to do now, what we had to do two years ago, what we had to do five years ago—expectations are changing.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Chief executive, you have nine cameras covering 62 hectares of space. If an incident occurs, how can the people involved in that, and indeed the citizens on the day, be assured that that is adequate coverage to respond to, say, a terrorism incident?

Mr QUIGLEY: CCTV cameras are one element that we use to manage that risk. There are other elements as well.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I appreciate that. We have had a number of agencies in here who all point to CCTV in an active situation as the key tool to help coordinate a holistic government response to a situation. I look again at the City of Perth's circumstance on the other side of the river. It has eight cameras covering one shop, I would say, in Elizabeth Quay at this point in time that police can plug into. I am curious as to how there is confidence from the city's perspective that it is absolutely ready in case there is a need. Does that give you adequate confidence that the city and agencies are best placed to respond if there is an incident on Australia Day?

Mr QUIGLEY: I would not agree that CCTV is the best tool to use. In my opinion, and I have been running events for a long time, activation of spaces is the best tool to manage that, and that is what we do well. We have family-friendly activities that encourage that type of attendance. We also manage the way that liquor is served at the venue, so you have to look at the issue holistically. CCTV is one of the strategies that can assist, but there are others.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I appreciate that. I do not think anyone would suggest though that in a counterterrorism situation the consumption of alcohol and the coalescence of families is necessarily going to be a factor in preventing a terrorist attack.

Mr QUIGLEY: No. I am talking widely about risk management.

The CHAIRMAN: It is probably a broader use of CCTV than just the terrorism, which is what you are suggesting.

Mr QUIGLEY: Of course.

The CHAIRMAN: Can I go back to the hiring of these CCTV cameras for that specific event? Who monitors those cameras and for how long do they keep the vision?

Mr ROAEN: They keep the vision for approximately a month. I think that is the legal requirement. There is vision of these cameras within the Emergency Coordination Centre, the control room in Maylands from where the whole event is in fact being coordinated. Our cameras go live on the big screens at the WA Police headquarters at Maylands.

The CHAIRMAN: It is primarily monitored through the Maylands control centre.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: Who determines where those cameras are positioned in your vast area? Do you do some sort of a risk assessment?

Mr ROAEN: Yes, it is where the big concentrations are where we think that also the risks might be. I am not only talking about terrorism now. We have a long history with Australia Day and in South Perth we know that around the flagpole there are some areas where certain groups might congregate later in the evening and might cause trouble, so of course we look at these things as well.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: It is historical risk rather than current or future risk?

Mr ROAEN: Not only, because of the fact that we have eight. We did not have eight two or three years ago. We have in fact been adding every year for the last two or three years.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: What you are saying is that you have no more than eight hotspots in the whole of the City of South Perth?

Mr ROAEN: Eight cameras are focussing on the hotspots where we have the biggest concentration of crowds on Australia Day.

The CHAIRMAN: Does the city run a register of private CCTV cameras at all? There are many businesses that have cameras that are targeted to the public realm. They have been used very successfully apprehending the offenders. The most potent example is the case of the murder of former Perth newsreader Jill Meagher. Do you keep a register of businesses or homes in your municipality that have these?

Mr GLASS: I am not aware that we do.

Mr FYFE: As I understand it, people who put in their own CCTV cameras are encouraged to register those with the police rather than local government, but it is voluntary, and it is dependent on the technology whether it is compatible and a few things like that.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Again on the camera situation, Embargo Bar is something that I enjoy. According to a submission, 52 000 over the period of a week go there. Is there a camera at all watching that?

[11.30 am]

Mr GLASS: When Embargo Bar was there? Well, Embargo Bar of course is now in the Town of Victoria Park rather than the City of South Perth, but I am not aware that there was —

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: —any security footage.

Mr GLASS: —a CCTV set-up specifically for that pop-up bar, no.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: Switching topics, in terms of people who have security obligations in their duty statement, do you hire private contractors in to provide security services; and, if so, who is the contracting companies?

Mr ROAEN: For Australia Day this year we worked with CSA, which is Corporate Security Australia. They provide us with private security. In fact, we start monitoring the foreshore—I am talking the whole foreshore in South Perth—one week prior to the fireworks, and that is day and night. We increase the number of private security guards as we come closer to the event, and we still monitor up to four or five days after the event.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: So do your contracting requirements stipulate the level of qualification in terms of those security personnel?

Mr ROAEN: I must say that for the first time this year, they did. In previous years we would just contract a security company and they would send us people that were trained in asset protection. We have changed that this year to have a certain amount that were trained in crowd control, which was in fact for us a pretty big change. We did not used to do that. We knew that this year it was becoming more important to have people who are able to really screen our visitors, because our big problem in South Perth, and not only in South Perth but also on the Perth side, is we have 150 000 people coming to the event, we have thousands of eskies rolling in to the foreshore and we do not check these people. We do not do bag searches; we do not check who they are. For us it is becoming more important to have people on the ground who are very good at screening people and looking at what is suspicious: “Is this okay? This person seems to be acting suspiciously.” We have changed that this year.

Mr QUIGLEY: To add to what Peter is saying, it is impossible to check because it is an unfenced environment. The only way to do that would be to actually make it either a ticket event or to fence it.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: How many people would you have on contract?

Mr ROAEN: We had 60 people on Australia Day.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: I know you made the comment that CCTV footage is not a critical approach for you guys, but can I suggest that maybe you do talk to police and other agencies? It is actually an important tool; it is probably the most important tool in terms of identifying what is going on. You might want to go back to the state and federal governments and get funding to put this as a priority in your city. I am a little bit concerned about the lack of CCTV footage or the understanding of its importance necessarily by you guys. I think it is critical, from the people we have been speaking to, as a number one priority, as well as obviously all the other measures. I am concerned about that.

Mr GLASS: Look, it is a point well made, and we take it. As we said, we are just in the throes of undertaking a CCTV citywide strategy at the moment, and applications and funding will flow from that. I think it does reflect how things have changed very rapidly. We were very much dealing with managing more antisocial behaviour than terrorism activity per se. It is really a quite fast moving area. I think it would be interesting to know how many CCTV cameras were along the entire length of the foreshore. I think you have got the Perth CBD, which is unique because of its urban environment, but the practice in South Perth is probably no different than the practice in Vic Park or Belmont or anywhere else that is along that foreshore.

The CHAIRMAN: You did mention that apart from the big Skyworks event, there are plenty of private events, either small ones or much larger ones—I think we have all been to some of them over time—on the foreshore. What security requirements do you impose as local government authority on those event organisers for those events, and have those requirements changed over time as new security threats have emerged?

Mr QUIGLEY: There are three main areas that I was going to comment on. One is event risk management planning. There is a requirement for the event organisers to submit event risk management plans to the city prior to venue approvals. Also, there is event training, so there is some training opportunities that the city provides. That is to assist with building capacity for groups who need it, because as you can appreciate, a lot of the events are run by community groups, so they are not necessarily skilled in running events of that scale. Then the last one is the city undertakes compliance checks. That is both leading pre-event and also at the event itself. We will undertake checks in terms of whether they are complying to their event risk management plans. One thing I wanted to add today is what I see as an enhancement opportunity, particularly with running community events, because there is a document that the WA health department puts out. This is considered the bible in terms of running events. It is called “Guidelines for concerts, events and organised gatherings”. Unfortunately it has not been reviewed since 2009 by the health department, so there is only one small reference in this document to terrorism and it is only just a one-liner. If I could just pass that forward as a recommendation possibly that the department review that, because this is the document that the community groups go to when they are planning events so it would be great to get some consistent application of dealing with terrorism into that document. That would be a great outcome of this committee.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: That, of course, is a Department of Health perspective, rather than WA Police and National Security, who have their own crowded places strategies. I can google it right now, as I have, and there is a self-assessment tool here right now. When we say about community groups referring to that, I imagine that is in a health realm, rather than a hardened security or —

Mr QUIGLEY: No, this document was facilitated by the Department of Health in conjunction with those stakeholders. Local government was involved in this, so was emergency services, so there are different areas that cover not only the health requirements but this document also covers all aspects concerning event risk management.

The CHAIRMAN: From the perspective of event organisers—concert promoters or whoever—they do not want to be complying with the Department of Health requirements and the emergency services' requirements and the police requirements; they want the guidelines in one document. They want the ability to comply through a series of checklists and guidelines. I recognise that. That is very important. So 2009 was the last time it was reviewed?

Mr QUIGLEY: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you; that is actually quite helpful.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Hostile vehicle management—if we could talk about that for a bit, if that is okay. Putting aside all the other issues that we have spoken about, I am keen to understand if the City of South Perth has a strategy in place to deal with hostile vehicle management, what governs that I suppose, and any sort of infrastructure that is brought in on a permanent or temporary basis to help attenuate that issue or mitigate that risk.

Mr ROAEN: I can talk for Australia Day. We introduced hostile vehicle management last year for the first time. We have reviewed our experience from last year. The way we did it this year in fact, again, we looked at where are the hotspots at the foreshore, where is the biggest concentration of crowds, and these areas we try to protect from hostile vehicles, which means that road closures in that area are completely blocked off, unfortunately not with what would be ideal but with what is available in WA. What we have used this year is water barriers, but not the standard water barriers. We have used Armaguard barriers. It looks like a water barrier but has a steel frame inside. It is much more difficult in fact to penetrate or to damage the barrier. Also, the way we set them up is working with what we have. The way we set them up is not horizontally. We have other structures to have a better barrier against a vehicle coming in. Additionally, we also parked vehicles in front of the barriers, on top, to make that even more difficult to get through. Now, that is one aspect of the HVM plan. The other aspect is that this year we also looked at who needs access through these points. We do not close off the whole city. We still need to get the residents in; that is, people who get a special permit from the city to get in. Also this year for the first time we have said that we must make sure that we do not keep on handing out permits to people who in fact we do not know for vehicles we do not know. We have in fact closed that gate. All the hostile vehicle management points we had this year were only accessible for vehicles that were pre-programmed on our list and where we knew who the driver was. Not only that—that is a change from this year as well—but in previous years, and certainly last year when we introduced hostile vehicle management, we only had traffic controllers at these spots. Traffic controllers—this is what we have seen over the years—are well trained technically, but they are not so good when it comes to making the right judgement when somebody comes in; whether it is true, not true or whether the story is right. They might also say, “It is too much of a discussion, so we will let them all in.” This year—that is also part of managing that type of risk—we have introduced rangers at all these spots. Where normally a road closure would be a point where there are two traffic officers, now we have got traffic officers and one South Perth ranger at every HVM spot. The ranger is in fact a person who is going to check and believe or not believe a story, and give access or not give access. That is also something we changed this year.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: How many points are there?

[11.40 am]

Mr ROAEN: We had 12 HVM spots. We also make a difference; we have got active and passive hostile vehicle management points. So the passive ones are of course the best ones to use. They are the ones where you decide we are going to really block off and let nobody in, even if you live in this area, because you have another way of getting to your house. We try to have as many as possible passive ones, where we can literally block and not allow anybody in. I think we had six passive ones, if I am right—I would need to check the number—and we had six or seven active ones.

The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps you can provide that as supplementary.

Mr ROAEN: Yes. That is all part of the risk management plan.

The CHAIRMAN: You have mentioned a couple of times now that some things just are not available in Western Australia and you have to make do. In this instance during Skyworks, what would you have liked to have had that is not available in Western Australia?

Mr ROAEN: Honestly, there is a lot out there now, not only in Australia but also in the world. I look at a lot of things now that become available.

The CHAIRMAN: What barriers would you have liked to have used?

Mr ROAEN: There are barriers that stop a truck and that stop a six tonner, a 10 tonner. They do exist. I think now in Sydney there are some companies on the market that have started producing these things, but we do not have them yet in WA. There are lots of different ones; I cannot now go into detail. It is an industry that is evolving very fast. I follow that online. There is very good equipment out there; unfortunately in WA we do not have access to it at the moment. We could, of course, transport it from over east, but the problem is on Australia Day they need it too. That is already happening interstate for other events. I hear that from colleagues who will say, “We have a big thing going on. We’ll get some equipment interstate,” but on Australia Day everybody needs their own equipment. That is the problem.

Mr FYFE: Can I give an example from the 2017 event? We wanted X number of traffic barriers, as did Joondalup and Fremantle and everybody else. There were not enough in the state. There was a train on its way to WA with about 300 on board; it did not get here in time.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: In all of these instances and, indeed, with HVM that is already in place, we recognise because of public exposure that the stadium has had issues in relation to bollards to stop trucks and the like. That was a conscious effort on their behalf. That must present an issue for temporary measures—any mechanism to be able to stop a large vehicle like that.

Mr FYFE: Absolutely.

Mr ROAEN: Looking at the documents from the federal government, the only thing that really does a very good job is permanent infrastructure, so permanent bollards.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Which the City of South Perth does not have.

Mr GLASS: No.

The CHAIRMAN: We are going to run out of time. Thank you for your evidence before the committee today. We will send you a note about the information that we will seek as supplementary information. We will send you a transcript of the hearing for your corrections. If you can make those corrections and return the transcript within 10 days, that would be very welcome. If you do not return the transcript in that period, we will just deem it to be correct. You cannot use the corrections process to introduce new material and you cannot change the sense of your evidence, but if you want to provide any additional material, we are very receptive to it. Feel free to make a supplementary submission either at the same time as you send in the transcript or at any time

during this hearing, because it is a process that keeps evolving. We would be very happy to hear from you. We thank you for the time you have given us today.

Hearing concluded at 11.43 am
