

POLICE — STAFFING — ELECTION COMMITMENTS

671. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Police:

Can the minister please advise the house on how the Liberal–National government’s election commitment for additional police and police auxiliary officers will improve policing in the south west?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Vasse for the question and also for her continued interest in policing matters in her area. I am really pleased to announce that as a result of the Liberal Party’s commitment to the growth program of police and police auxiliary officers both from the 2008 and the 2013 election commitments, the Commissioner of Police has recently made a decision to boost the police numbers to the south west district. I appreciated the contribution the member for Vasse made in lodging that petition from 934 petitioners from her electorate who indicated their concern about police resourcing in that electorate. As a result, running separately to that matter, the commissioner has looked at resourcing in the south west district and determined that he would make an allocation of 38 additional police officers to the south west district. That will comprise 26 uniformed general duties officers.

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: It will also comprise nine detectives. Member for Vasse, I am really pleased to announce that four of those nine detectives will be located in Busselton. We will also have two prosecutors, obviously to help cope with the additional work that those officers will be putting through that district, and one youth crime prevention officer. We are really pleased that as a result of the commitment to the growth program in this state, there is an ability for the police commissioner to allocate additional resources as we start to witness unprecedented growth, which is what we are experiencing in the south west district with the development of suburbs such as Treendale and Dalyellup, and indeed some of the subdivisions in the member for Vasse’s local vicinity around Busselton. In addition, the expansion of the police auxiliary officer program has allowed us to place an additional three police auxiliary officers and they have been allocated to the south west district. The importance of the police auxiliary officers is that they will be involved in custody management, which will then free up three police officers to go back out to the front line responding to calls in the community and engaging in those local policing activities that are so important in making sure we can manage crime in the south west district, and also target those prolific offenders, bring them before the courts and obviously put them behind bars where they belong.