

CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION REPORT — EAST PERTH WATCH HOUSE

**647. Mrs M.H. ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:**

I have a supplementary question. It has certainly been reported in the media that the police commissioner does not agree with the findings, so is the minister at odds with the commissioner or does she agree with what he is saying?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:**

When we have a look at this report, we see that the incident happened in April 2013 in the old watch house. I do not know whether anyone has ever been to the old East Perth watch house, but it was an appalling facility. It does not surprise me that this report highlights that there were significant cultural issues and disciplinary issues within the old East Perth watch house.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** This is a really serious issue and I think that the house would really like to understand what has happened since April 2013.

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** This government invested \$93 million in the new Northbridge police complex, complete with a new watch house —

*Point of Order*

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I have simply asked by way of a supplementary question—which has to be about a single item, as you know, Mr Speaker—whether the minister agrees with the police commissioner. I do not think it is appropriate that we get the whole history of the Perth watch house, which was initiated by the Labor government.

**The SPEAKER:** Can you address that supplementary question, please.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** I am going by way of background information to explain my position on this report. Obviously, at the point the section 42 notice is issued by the Corruption and Crime Commission, police are no longer allowed to investigate an incident. It has been two years since this incident. In that two-year period there has been some contact between the police and the CCC. There has also been the move from that horrible, old East Perth watch house into the brand-new watch house, which is actually equipped with the environment and the standards that we would expect our auxiliary officers to work in and for alleged offenders to be managed in. As a result of that contact and the switch to the new facility, there has been a significant change in the policies and procedures and there has been a significant change to the training given to the police auxiliary officers managing people in that watch house.

In addition to that, we have authorised the purchase of scanning equipment. Offenders will soon be able to be scanned in the watch house instead of strip searched to determine whether they might have a weapon concealed on their bodies. The scanners will identify whether people then need to move to a strip search, so that will basically negate the need for a wide range of people coming into police custody to be strip searched. The scanners will identify those with whom that further action needs to be taken. In addition to that, with our Criminal Code infringement notices legislation, this kind of matter, disorderly conduct, would have resulted in an infringement being issued. These sorts of incidents with these kinds of offences would be dealt with by way of infringement notice and they would not necessitate an offender being held in the watch house.