

POLICE — LOCALITY ALLOWANCES AND VACANCIES

555. Mrs M.H. ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the fact that it is now the end of September, and the Western Australian Police Union asked the minister in July to address the issue of locality allowances. I refer also to the large number of unfilled positions at police stations in the south west, the great southern and the wheatbelt, and elsewhere in regional Western Australia.

- (1) Has the minister read the Western Australian Police Union locality allowances submission?
- (2) What does the minister understand the problem to be?
- (3) What has the minister done about it?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(3) In answer to the first part of the question, yes, I have read the police union submission on locality allowances, and I have been in discussions with the union, and also with the executive of WA Police—the commissioner and other senior members of WA Police—in working out attraction and retention options that we can put to police officers to ensure that we attract the best police officers for the police stations and for different policing circumstances in regional areas. Indeed, I was recently in the south west, and I visited Katanning, Bunbury, Australind and Capel and spent a fair bit of time talking to these officers and hearing their concerns. Interestingly, members, officers in each of those stations had very different reasons for being there, and very different ideas as to what might attract officers to come to those areas and what might in fact be a hurdle to attracting officers to move from the city to regional areas. That is a work in progress. Once we have arrived at a course of action and a policy that we think is going to work and that we are all satisfied with, I will be announcing that.