

PUBLIC VIOLENCE — NORTHBRIDGE

**743. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:**

I refer to the Premier's comments in May 2016 when he referred to violent crime on the streets of Northbridge as the sort of stuff we expect to see in the back blocks of Los Angeles or Detroit. Given that the number of assaults in Northbridge has increased 37 per cent since the Premier made those comments, how does he now describe the out-of-control violence on the streets of Northbridge?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

As with everything, we need context. The crime rates under the former government were a record.

**Mrs L.M. Harvey** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, wait for your opportunity.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The former government put in place a policing model that failed, which meant far fewer police officers were available to deal with the crime that was occurring in our community. The former government put in the Frontline 2020 policing model. That failed. We saw massive growth in crime rates across our community. We saw far longer police response times. We saw methamphetamine usage going up significantly and we saw massive increases in crime rates across Western Australia. That was the context for it. Now we see a reduction in crime rates across Western Australia. Yes, we do. A lot fewer crimes are being committed across Western Australia today.

**Mr A. Krsticevic** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Carine, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** It may be that in certain areas, there has been some movement in the statistics.

**Mr A. Krsticevic** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Carine, I call you to order for the second time.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Overall, in Western Australia there has been a decline in crime rates. Surely the member can grasp that and understand that simple point—that when the opposition was in office, there were 20 000 more crimes committed than there have been since we have been in office. That is pretty straightforward, I would have thought.