

POLICE COMPLEX — WESTERN SUBURBS

**749. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Police:**

The previous Labor government —

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** No preamble!

**The SPEAKER:** Take a seat, member. I formally call you to order for the first time today, member for Girrawheen. The member for Scarborough has the call.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** The previous Labor government's soft-on-crime approach to law and order left Western Australia Police significantly under-resourced. Could the minister please update the house on the latest investment this Liberal-National government has made in police infrastructure, with specific reference to the western suburbs police complex and what that will mean for the suburbs of Subiaco, Claremont, Cottesloe and Wembley?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON replied:**

On behalf of the member for Churchlands, I acknowledge the students from Hale School who are in the gallery today.

To answer the member for Scarborough's question, yes, we certainly are investing more money in policing and police resources than the previous Labor government did, and we are using more innovative ideas, which is going down very well with the police.

**Mr J.R. Quigley:** Like stop-and-search!

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** What is that noise? What a funny noise!

Yes, member for Scarborough, it gives me great pleasure to announce—obviously again—that the government is investing \$27.5 million in the new police hub in Claremont. It will replace the four very old, very antiquated out-of-condition police stations in Subiaco, Claremont, Cottesloe and Wembley. At least two of those, I think, date back 100 years or more and are totally inadequate for policing in the modern day.

They are not up to health and safety standards. The police and the police union are delighted that we are investing that money; in fact, we are bringing the funds forward by two years to try to ensure the new western suburbs hub is ready within a good time frame. It will mean better and more efficient policing. Administrative services being replicated in four separate stations now will all be contained in one new police hub. That will mean more police officers will be out on the beat in their patrol cars and they will be able to respond to calls much more quickly than they can at the moment. Every police car has a tasking and data information system, which is almost a mobile police station, so they can be contacted. I give assurance to the people who live in those four suburbs where there are existing police stations that their areas will be constantly patrolled. In fact there will be more patrols throughout their suburbs than there are at the moment. It is a great step forward for policing in WA. Police hubs are now the way forward. The hub in Claremont is the one we will be looking at immediately, and we will be looking at others very shortly, which will give some comfort to some other members.