

WA POLICE — BODY-WORN CAMERAS

**280. Mrs G.J. GODFREY to the Minister for Police:**

Can the minister please advise the house on any new —

**Mr B.S. Wyatt** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Victoria Park, I call you to order for the first time. Start again, please.

**Mrs G.J. GODFREY:** Thank you. My question is to the Minister for Police —

**Mr P.B. Watson** interjected.

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

**Mrs G.J. GODFREY:** Thank you. My question is to the Minister for Police. Can the minister please advise the house on any new initiatives that will help protect our police officers?

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

I thank the member for Belmont for her question and her continued interest in this government's initiatives to protect our police officers.

Over the seven or so years that we have been in government, we have gained a very strong reputation for putting initiatives in place to protect our police officers. I was really pleased to be in Northbridge recently with the member for Perth and Deputy Commissioner Steve Brown to announce a trial of body-worn video cameras that will commence in Perth —

**Mr P.B. Watson** interjected.

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

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** The body-worn camera trial—as I was saying before I was so rudely interrupted—will be conducted in Perth and Bunbury. This is the first trial of this sort of initiative in Western Australia. Approximately 300 cameras will be deployed to frontline officers in the Perth local policing and response teams. In addition, our regional operations group officers will be wearing body-worn cameras as part of a trial, and officers at Bunbury Police Station will, too, member for Bunbury. I am sure that the member for Bunbury's local constituency will welcome this initiative.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Members opposite cannot bear to hear how well this government looks after police officers, can they? They just have to interject. We on this side of the house know our police officers do an exceptional job in very challenging circumstances. We are hopeful—we will be assessing it—that the wearing of body-worn video cameras as part of this trial will result in more early guilty pleas as those offenders intervened on by police will see themselves on video and obviously see how they behaved. It may lead to an early guilty plea, which is a better result for victims of crime because they get some swift justice. This will add to our tremendous record as a government. We are the government that introduced mandatory minimum terms for people who assault police officers. We are the government that introduced the mandatory taking of blood from people who bit or spat at our police officers. Our officers in Western Australia know that the Liberal–National government supports them against people who assault them. We make sure those people go to jail, unlike the Labor opposition. It endorses candidates who assault police officers, and then it goes to the media —

Several members interjected.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** The Leader of the Opposition says, “He’s a really decent bloke.” People who assault police officers in Western Australia are not decent blokes; they go to jail under this government.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland, it is finished.