

POLICE — STATE WAGES POLICY

**606. Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE to the Leader of the House:**

I refer to comments made by Minister Johnston in announcing the state wages policy on 12 May 2017, and I quote —

The new public sector wages policy reflects the reality of WA's economic circumstances, with real wages actually going backwards in the private sector.

I also refer to the 2019–20 budget, which forecast Perth's consumer price index trending to 2.5 per cent and the wage price index growth trending to 3.25 per cent across the forward estimates.

- (1) Does the Leader of the House recognise, in light of these facts, that the 1.08 per cent offer today to police officers with the rank of senior constable is actually a pay cut?
- (2) Given that the state government has announced an operating surplus in 2019–20, will the government abandon the current state wages policy and develop a new one that better recognises the risks taken and the contribution to community safety of our police force?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

Can I just confirm that that is a question without notice about a matter outside my portfolio?

**Hon Martin Aldridge:** You're the leader of the government.

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** I am not in a position to provide the member with an answer to that question at all; that is outside the standing orders. However, I certainly can say that this government's management of the finances involved some really hard decisions being made, including around wages. As a consequence of that, negotiations with the Police Union, representing hardworking police, will be carried out under the auspices of the relevant minister, who is not me.