

POLICE — DRUGS — OPERATION COLLECTIVE

113. Mr G.M. CASTRILLI to the Minister for Police:

The scourge of drugs impacts on all Western Australians and, unfortunately, regional Western Australia is not immune. Can the minister advise the house on how the Liberal–National government is supporting Western Australia Police in ridding drugs from the south west community?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Bunbury for the question. When he retires from this place, I will certainly miss collaborating with the member on law and order issues and other issues in the seat of Bunbury.

I am very pleased to take this opportunity to inform the house of the amazing successes of our awesome team of WA Police detectives in the south west district. They have been targeting drug dealing and other illegal activity in the south west. Out of the intelligence that has been gathered by police, certainly intelligence that has been put forward by the local community, concerned citizens reporting to Crime Stoppers and other avenues, the police launched Operation Collective in the south west. That resulted last week in a coordinated effort across the whole district through the serving of 51 search warrants. Out of those search warrants, police located and seized quantities of methamphetamine, cannabis, LSD, magic mushrooms, steroids, synthetic cannabis, a replica AK-47, and sawn-off .22 calibre rifle and homemade silencer, a stolen air rifle, pipes and other smoking implements, and other items associated with the cultivation and use of drugs. This was a significant operation and a significant seizure. I am really pleased with the efforts of police in the south west. Out of those search warrants, 58 people have been charged with 151 charges—things ranging from possessing and cultivating drugs with intent to sell or supply, possession of drugs or drugs paraphernalia, possession of controlled weapons and firearms, stealing, fraud and unlawful possession of goods.

The key to this effort was a little bit of old-fashioned policing that the Leader of the Opposition was calling for. We never abandoned old-fashioned policing, particularly that community in the south west, through their intelligence gathering efforts and calls from the community, have resulted in this very significant seizure and interruption to the flow, cultivation and manufacture of drugs in the south west district.

We will continue to highlight the efforts of our police right across the state. They deserve praise and recognition in this place of the work that they undertake on behalf of the community. Certainly, the members for Bunbury and Vasse will be pleased to know that police will soon be launching the next phase of Operation Collective, no doubt targeting the second wave —

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Albany, I call you to order for the second time. Can you wind up, please, minister.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The next phase of Operation Collective will target these drug dealers. Clearly, member for Girrawheen, there are enough detectives.