

POLICE — CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION STRATEGY — DRAFT RELEASE

244. MR N.W. MORTON to the Minister for Police:

Before I ask my question, I acknowledge the fantastic student leaders and Mr Carl Sanderson from Wattle Grove Primary School in my electorate, which also happens to be the 2014 primary school of the year.

Can the minister please inform the house of her recent announcement about the release of the draft closed-circuit television strategy?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Forrestfield for his question. I was very pleased today to release for public consultation a draft copy of the state —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington! Member for Mandurah! Member for Girrawheen!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I will start again. I was very pleased today to release a draft copy of the Western Australian CCTV strategy, which is a partial fulfilment of a commitment we took to the electorate at the 2013 election. At the time, we were considering the 2011 Auditor General's report into the Blue Iris project, which was a CCTV registration system. My concern with CCTV in the state was that it was of poor quality, there were some problems with the formatting of it and there was a lack of accessibility. When police wanted to use CCTV footage to try to prosecute crimes and bring offenders to justice, often the footage would be grainy and it was difficult to find the CCTV footage that would be of use to police.

Prior to committing to the expenditure on the CCTV grants program, I determined that we would release some funding to form the strategy and inform ourselves of the most appropriate path forward for the state government before we started to expend further funds in the CCTV space—bearing in mind that there is federal government, state government and local government investment in CCTV, as well as a significant investment by business proprietors, particularly in the precincts that we would consider to be crime hotspots.

The CCTV strategy has four elements. One of the elements is refreshing the existing state CCTV register. Blue Iris was a project of its time, but with the changes in technology, we need a more contemporary registration system. This strategy goes towards addressing that. It will also address the criteria and guidelines for the appropriate CCTV infrastructure to make sure that it is fit-for-purpose. It will provide a direct connection between the owners of CCTV footage and the police, with an agreement for use and access by police in certain circumstances. We are also looking at new emerging technology using mobile phone footage —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, thank you! I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: We are testing a new mobile video sharing format that might be of use to police, because obviously everybody who owns a mobile phone these days has the opportunity to contribute to the CCTV system.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the second time!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Everyone who owns a mobile phone has the opportunity to contribute to the police's access to CCTV footage that can assist them in the prosecution of offences.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the third time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: We are really pleased to have a draft state CCTV strategy. We know it will improve outcomes for the community in safety and crime prevention. It feeds directly into this government's agenda to improve the safety of all Western Australians, and to ensure —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington, I call you to order for the first time. Leader of the National Party, I call you to order for the first time. Member for Girrawheen, you are on three.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The reason that we make these commitments to law and order and crime prevention and to the CCTV strategy is that we know that community safety is important to the citizens of Western Australia,

and that they want the most effective spend of government money on CCTV infrastructure. I would like to table the strategy for the house.

[See paper 2779.]

Mr W.J. Johnston: Have you read it?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Of course, I have read it. Read it and weep, member!

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington! That question is finished.