

BALLAJURA POLICE STATION — CLOSURE

8524. Ms R. Saffioti to the Minister for Police

I refer to the decision by the Barnett Government to close Ballajura Police Station, and I ask:

- (a) will the Minister review this decision and open a Police Station in Ballajura; and
- (b) if not, why not?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

- (a) Decisions regarding closure and opening of stations are fundamentally the responsibility for the Police Commissioner, and he has no plans to open a Police Station in Ballajura at this time. Although a Minister has no power to 'review' this kind of WA Police decision in a formal or legal sense, I have requested information to satisfy myself of the basis of this decision, and decide whether I should raise this matter with the Commissioner further.
- (b) WA Police advise that the decision to close Ballajura Police Station in September 2009 and reallocate resources to Ellenbrook and Kiara Police Stations was based on an assessment of the existing configuration and capacity of police accommodation at Ballajura. Critical to this decision was their view that Ballajura Police Station was not suitable for operational purposes and lacked appropriate custodial facilities, security and equipment.

This decision was made by monitoring the ongoing demand for policing services, and reflects the reality that the specific location of the station that the officers operate from does not always significantly affect service delivery.

Kiara Police Station provides a 24 hour, seven day per week response to Ballajura. Police officers actively engage in targeted patrols 24 hours a day, seven days a week maintaining high visibility and accessibility to the community in addition to ensuring a timely response to any reported incidents. These patrols may also be supplemented by additional vehicles internal or external to the district, dependent on tasking requirements.

Should evidence be presented to me, that service delivery in Ballajura has been significantly negatively affected by the closure of the station, I will put this view to WA Police.