

CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION CAMERAS — GRANTS — LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Statement by Minister for Police

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Police) [9.05 am]: The Liberal–National government has delivered another key election commitment with \$5 million in grant funding being announced for local governments to install CCTV cameras in crime hotspots. The funding is available for CCTV cameras and systems to help combat criminal and antisocial behaviour and to establish a coordinated CCTV network to assist in responding to emergencies. During the grant application process, police will assist and support local governments with the planning and development of their submissions to ensure that new systems will benefit the safety of the local community. Assistance will be provided to local governments by a WA Police project team to ensure that existing and proposed CCTV infrastructure can operate with the future state CCTV network. I encourage all local government authorities to access the information for these grants. Initial submissions must be received by the State CCTV Strategy Secretariat by Friday, 18 December 2015.

A coordinated state CCTV network is also being developed, which will allow CCTV owners who have cameras covering public spaces to register so that their live CCTV footage can be accessed for public safety and security purposes. An important aspect of the strategy is that we ensure that emergency services as well as police can access the network. This is a state government CCTV network and other services will have access to it. We know how important it is to fight crime, but this network will also provide a valuable tool in responding to a range of emergencies, such as car crashes, house and bush fires, and other public safety incidents, which unfortunately could include acts of terrorism. This will provide live information on incidents, allowing a greater knowledge of what has occurred and how many people are involved, and increasing the capacity of police and emergency services to respond quickly and appropriately.

Although CCTV can make a significant contribution to preventing and solving crime or responding to public safety issues and emergencies, factors such as poor quality, incorrect formatting or lack of accessibility of CCTV can hamper the ability of police and emergency services to use it effectively. A range of resources will be developed to help the community ensure that its CCTV systems have been set up so that they can be used by police and emergency services. Documents providing recommendations for CCTV systems and a video to assist the community with determining whether its CCTV has been set up properly are available on the WA Police website. The state CCTV register will provide WA Police with information on voluntarily registered CCTV cameras monitoring public spaces. It will enable the provision of CCTV evidence for investigations and improve operational capability. I commend the Liberal–National government for this initiative, as an integrated CCTV network will be an enormous asset in preventing and prosecuting crime and antisocial behaviour in our community.