

ROE HIGHWAY STAGE 8 — POLICE PRESENCE

1010. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Minister for Police:

I have a supplementary question. With reports of around 50 police officers plus patrolling in the Roe 8 area and figures released today showing crime —

Mr F.A. Alban interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Swan Hills, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will start again, Mr Speaker. With reports today that at least 50 police officers were present at this protest and figures released today showing crimes against the person are up by a staggering 27 per cent since this time last year, could these police resources not have been better used?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

What a ridiculous question. We resource police in this state to perform a wide range of functions to protect our community and maintain law and order. Right across the state, police perform all sorts of functions. They perform traffic functions, they intervene in domestic violence incidences and they respond to calls from the community. Yes, they are available —

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cockburn, I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The community of Western Australia can be reassured that this state government resources our police officers to keep the community safe and to maintain order for a wide range of activities. Had things gone pear-shaped at Roe 8, the police would have been there to intervene.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Butler, I call you to order for the first time; Member for Willagee, for the second time; and Minister for Health, for the first time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I want to make it very clear to everybody in this Parliament that there was no direction from the government with respect to the protest activity at Roe 8. The police acted in response to their intelligence gathering with respect to their monitoring of social media. The commissioner makes his decisions to deploy his people where he chooses—where they need to be to keep the community safe and maintain order. He does a good job. I support him in his job, and so should members opposite.

Mr N.W. Morton interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Forrestfield, that is finished!

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cockburn, I call you to order for the second time. The question is finished.