

Chair; Mr Peter Katsambanis; Mrs Michelle Roberts; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Simon Millman; Dr Tony Buti;  
Mr Kyran O'Donnell; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mrs Liza Harvey

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**Division 28: Western Australia Police Force, \$1 544 335 000 —**

Ms M.M. Quirk, Chair.

Mrs M.H. Roberts, Minister for Police.

Mr C. Dawson, Commissioner of Police.

Mr G. Dreibergs, Deputy Commissioner of Police.

Mr C. Blanch, Deputy Commissioner of Police.

Mr P. Steel, Assistant Commissioner, Operation Tide.

Ms K. Whiteley, Assistant Commissioner, Operations Support.

Ms S. Cardenia, Director, Finance and Business Services.

Mr F. Pasquale, Executive Director.

Mr A. Warner, Commissioner, Road Safety Commission.

Mr I. Cameron, Chairman, Road Safety Council.

Mr K. Law, Assistant Director, Finance and Business Services, Road Safety Commission.

[Witnesses introduced.]

**The CHAIR:** Some might say it is the usual suspects! This estimates committee will be reported by Hansard. The daily proof *Hansard* will be available the following day. I will ensure that as many questions as possible are asked and answered and that both questions and answers are short and to the point. The estimates committee's consideration of the estimates will be restricted to discussion of those items for which a vote of money is proposed in the consolidated account. Questions must be clearly related to a page number, item, program or amount in the current division. Members should give these details in preface to their question. If a division or service is the responsibility of more than one minister, a minister shall be examined only in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.

The minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee rather than asking that the question be put on notice for the next sitting week. I ask the minister to clearly indicate what supplementary information she agrees to provide and I will then allocate a reference number. If supplementary information is to be provided, I seek the minister's cooperation in ensuring that it is delivered to the principal clerk by Friday, 30 October 2020. I caution members that if a minister asks that a matter be put on notice, it is up to the member to lodge the question on notice through the online questions system.

I give the call to the member for Hillarys.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** Through you, minister, my first set of questions refers to page 418 of budget paper No 2. Under new initiatives and the line item for "Other COVID-19—Operating Costs" a series of figures is outlined. Obviously, it is something that was not foreseen in the previous budget. Around \$24 million is allocated for the 2019–20 actual; \$10 million is allocated in 2020–21; and diminishing amounts are allocated in the out years. There is a 43 per cent reduction in the operating costs for COVID-19-related operations between the 2019–20 financial year and the financial year we have just entered. What is the explanation for that significant reduction in operating costs? Is it going to be sufficient, given that we are almost halfway through this financial year and we are still in elevated COVID times regarding Operation Tide and every other operation that Western Australia police are undertaking?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** As the member would be aware, the COVID-19 state of emergency in Western Australia was first declared on 15 March this year. The Commissioner of Police is the State Emergency Coordinator. Because of the pandemic, significant changes have been made to what police need to do and that has incurred additional costs. Those additional costs include things like compliance and assurance operations; the enforcement of land borders and regional checkpoints; and air and sea port checks, including assistance right across Western Australia. Of course, the police are also involved in the G2G travel application process, and some further indirect costs have also been incurred. The police force was provided with a total of \$45.495 million across the forward estimates period for those operating costs, including additional expenditure of \$24.473 million in 2019–20 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A breakdown of the \$24.473 million is as follows: \$12 million for employee expenses; the investment in personal protective equipment; \$5.5 million for enhanced cleaning contracts; and \$4.5 million for equipment purchases to fit out frontline offices. Over the forward estimates period for unavoidable costs related to COVID-19, additional funding of \$21 million is provided for 2020–21. That includes \$3.6 million for accommodation and communications, given the ongoing requirement for the state pandemic coordination centre and incident management team operations. It also includes additional money for cleaning and hygiene, which has been costed at \$2.315 million. Additional funding of \$2.3 million is allocated for enhanced protective equipment and consumables for that period.

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There is additional expenditure for technology. These costs are unavoidable for us. There are also associated salary expenses. I am not sure whether the commissioner wants to add anything further.

**Mr C. Dawson:** No.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** I have a further question. I understand that breakdown and I appreciate it. Obviously, the expenditure for 2019–20 commenced in March, so let us be generous and call it four months of expenditure. That included \$12 million in employee expenses, \$5.5 million for cleaning and everything that the minister outlined. That was for a concentrated four-month period. We are now four months into this financial year. If in the current financial year we had expenditure similar to that which we had at the end of the last financial year, would the minister not expect that our expenditure on COVID-related operating costs would at least be commensurate with what we had last year, if not higher, rather than there being a reduction in expenditure? The minister outlined that \$21 million is allocated over the forward estimates and she is right, but that equates to only \$10.5 million in the current financial year. I seek some assurance that funding is available to continue Operation Tide and all the other operations, given that if they cost \$24 million in three and a half months, why, over the next 12 months, were they allocated only \$10.5 million?

[7.10 pm]

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** The fact of the matter is that when we last held budget estimates, there was no money in the budget for COVID at all. That money was found because it was needed. Some of those costs that are referred to there are initial set-up costs. Some of the things that we had to do in the first instance include putting in place all those intrastate borders and intrastate checkpoints and so forth. They were a lot more intensive. As the member will also be aware, we have not had any community spread of COVID-19 in our state for over six months. Like the member, I do not have a crystal ball; I am not sure exactly what the future holds. Whatever costs the police need to meet in that process, they will be met. The allocation by government is based on what the police have requested. I understand that the commissioner is prepared to add a bit more clarity for the member, but some of those costs are very much initial set-up costs. They were required when we were doing more intensive operations. We all hope that in the future, there will be less to do, not more, but of course that cannot be guaranteed. That is why we need to be prepared. That is why we have allocated significant extra resources to the Western Australia Police Force, including the initial 150 officers we announced in April and the first 200 of the additional 800 officers we committed to in this budget process, which will be delivered in 2020–21.

**Mr C. Dawson:** In addition to the comments raised by the minister, the set-up costs were for, by way of example, the rollout of additional OneForce Locate mobile technology with the smart devices, which we accelerated forward to assist us. In relation to an example that the minister just mentioned, with our intrastate border directions, we stopped some 850 000 vehicles over that four-month period. With that, we implemented a G2G PASS system with QR codes. That required us to accelerate forward some of the technological spend in the last four months of the last financial year. In the current budget year, of course some \$73 million has been allocated for additional police officer recruitment and some \$17.8 million for some additional tracking and tracing. The expenditure differential, which I think is the heart of the member's question, was really particularised in bringing forward some early spend. We certainly got the budget we sought in the current financial year with the additional FTEs and some additional technical operating costs.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** Again on the COVID-19 operating costs, the minister mentioned the need to ramp up, and Operation Tide. Could we get from the minister an update on the current allocation of FTEs to Operation Tide and the anticipated allocation over the foreseeable period—let us say between now and Christmas, unless the minister has some other period that she thinks is worthwhile expanding on?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** As the member for Hillarys may be aware, I recently answered a question about this. I think the figure that was given was about 380, but I will ask the commissioner to provide whatever up-to-date information he can.

**Mr C. Dawson:** The number stated by the minister is accurate—in the order of 380 to 400. It is a little flexible, but I have established a dedicated portfolio dealing with the police response to COVID-19. That is headed up through Deputy Commissioner Gary Dreibergs, and Assistant Commissioner Paul Steel is the titular head of that new portfolio, which has just under 400 FTEs dedicated to it. I would add that in the surge capability, that reflects only the FTEs we have allocated within the Perth metropolitan area. Although some of those officers are at times dispatched to regional Western Australia, in the recent week, for instance, we have had the iron ore carriers come into the Pilbara, and we dedicate regional Western Australia staff who are already positioned there, so the number is, by its very nature, fluid. Although we have 400 purposely dedicated full time to this, we co-opt officers from a whole range of disciplines, particularly in regional Western Australia. If there is an issue in Wyndham, we will obviously utilise Wyndham, Kununurra and Kimberley police and we will supplement them when we need to. For instance, at the roadblocks at Kununurra and Eucla, we supplement the existing local police.

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**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** We recognise that. Thank you for the answer. I think that is well recognised and the police need that capacity. The public and the opposition support the police in that. In relation to performing the duties that Operation Tide officers perform, when there is a need to do the regular check on people who are self-isolating, is that performed by Operation Tide officers or by the officers at the police station in the local police district, and does it differ between metropolitan Perth and regional WA?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I will pass that on to the commissioner.

**Mr C. Dawson:** Thank you, Chair, and, with your consent, Mr Dreiberger could add to what I may miss. In the metropolitan area, it is done predominantly by the Operation Tide officers who are dedicated to that. We have a dedicated compliance checking team. We ordinarily target a person who is self-isolating with in the order of three checks over their 14-day period, but we may increase that depending on our intelligence and assessment of the individuals. What has made a massive difference has been the introduction of the G2G Now app, which was WA-led with a small Western Australian company, through which we do virtual checking. I can get the exact number for the member, but about 4 500 people are in self-isolation as of today. Just under 2 000 people are using the G2G Now app. That means that we can virtually check without the necessity for officers physically going there, although we will continue to do that, to be blunt, to keep people on their toes and make sure that the integrity of the quarantine is right. In terms of regional Western Australia, I know the answer, but I know that Mr Dreiberger and Mr Steel do this on a daily basis.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I will ask Mr Dreiberger to contribute. Ahead of doing that, I think I have already put on record my thanks to Mr Dreiberger for his work on developing this app. It is really a first in Australia and it is a great initiative by the Western Australia Police Force. I think it makes sense and it will be very useful into the future.

**Mr G. Dreiberger:** I can add that in regional WA, the checks are done by regional WA officers, but most of the pre-process is coordinated in Perth by the Operation Tide team. They do the data entry into our computer-aided dispatch system so that officers in regional WA know where they have to visit. They also deploy advice to the regional WA locations to undertake those checks. Again, the G2G Now app operates in regional areas, as well as in the metropolitan area, so it has the capacity to work throughout the entire state. We also supplement our officers in the metropolitan area when we can with additional FTEs from the police academy if necessary if we get a real surge in requirement. That is done because we have officers who are doing driving training, and that gives them an additional opportunity to do some quarantine checks as part of that training. We are utilising our resources to the maximum, but they are always managed and led by senior supervisors when they perform that function. In regional WA, predominantly the checks on quarantine are conducted by regional WA officers and coordinated in Perth by Operation Tide.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** I have a further question.

**The CHAIR:** The tide is going out, but you can have one further question at this stage.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** On the G2G PASS that is funded through this initiative, it is well-established that if someone comes in through the land border or the airports, they require a G2G PASS of one form or another. Is it the same for people who arrive by sea? Do they need to get a G2G PASS in order to leave the port that they arrive at or is that handled in a different manner?

[7.20 pm]

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** One of the difficulties that we have had in any jurisdiction, whether people are leaving by boat or by plane, is imposing a requirement for travellers to have a G2G PASS. If we had our way, we would like authorities in the eastern states and other countries to check whether people have a G2G PASS. The airlines could do it. We could get assistance from the Australian Federal Police or Australian Border Force. It would not really matter who did it. That would make sense because we continue to end up with the problem, whether it is by air, sea or land, of people who attempt to enter the state without a G2G PASS. There is a requirement for people to fill in that paperwork if they want to come to Western Australia. When I say "paperwork", I am using that word a bit metaphorically. People have to apply online. Perhaps Mr Dreiberger could comment further.

**Mr G. Dreiberger:** All persons entering Western Australia are expected to complete a G2G PASS application. If they do not complete an electronic version of the G2G PASS application, they can download and complete a hard copy or email version from the WA government website. Once they have completed the application, they have to wait to become an approved traveller. As the minister pointed out, people can elect to do the wrong thing and travel to Western Australia without an approved G2G PASS or an approved email application, but if they arrive at our airports or roadblocks, they will be checked. People arriving who are not approved travellers can also be checked at our ports. If they are not approved travellers, we have the ability to direct them to return to where they came from. The process is supported by the G2G PASS system because when people arrive at any location, the officers have a system called mothership. They have wireless laptops. They go through the entire process of checking an individual's situation when they arrive. They look at their application, all the evidence of the details that they have provided, and make sure that they are approved travellers. They can eject them at the airport. On occasions people

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have said that they put in four or five applications. Interestingly, we generally find that those people change their story from the first application to the fifth application. They are regularly the people who are rejected when they enter the state because their story does not add up from the start to the finish. The benefit for Western Australia is that we have a full history of every single person who arrives with a G2G PASS when they come here.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** I understand that in relation to airports and the land borders of both Kununurra and Eucla, the police are checking people. Are police officers ordinarily stationed at our ports to monitor the compliance with the G2G system? Do they have a 24/7 presence? What sort of police presence do we have at our ports, be it Fremantle, Geraldton or any of our many ports in this state?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** The Commissioner of Police will clarify that for the member.

**Mr C. Dawson:** The Australian Border Force and the Department of Home Affairs have primary responsibility for border control. If a vessel arrives from international waters, it is primarily met by the Australian Border Force. There are Australian quarantine systems in place, and the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, which is a commonwealth agency, has biosecurity risks, for instance. We work in tandem with commonwealth agencies. We will not necessarily have Western Australian police at every single port but we do liaise and get advice. By way of example, last weekend—it is well-known publicly—a livestock carrier entered Western Australian waters at Fremantle and an iron ore carrier came into Geraldton. We physically met both those vessels with the Department of Health, which is the main hazard management agency for Western Australia. The police support that department. We physically meet any persons who are disembarking from those vessels. As the State Emergency Coordinator, I am required to make an assessment. Over the last weekend, I signed 39 specific directions requiring crew who had either been in close contact with or who were direct positive to COVID-19 to be swabbed. I gave directions to my officers who then physically escorted those people from the vessels, either to a hospital or primarily to what is known as centre quarantine, which is a hotel contracted by the Department of Health.

The police are closely involved in the escort arrangements and then the compliance checking. It is initially done through the commonwealth, supplemented by police and other state assets, which includes the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development, which does some of the animal husbandry, if it is that sort of vessel, or another state agency if the vessel is associated with the resource sector and carrying LNG et cetera. It is a busy part of our area. My long answer to the member is that through that structure of the commonwealth, the state and other state agencies, principally through public health officials, we meet any vessel that we consider suspect. Most of the crew from many of the vessels never disembark, but, when they do, either for health reasons or for a crew change, police certainly become involved quite heavily.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Under Operation Tide, the minister said that just under 400 police officers are dedicated to dealing with the COVID-19 G2G PASS. Does that limit the number of people who can come into Western Australia if they have a G2G PASS? With some of the anecdotal evidence that we have heard of people being rejected three, four, five or six times, is the cap on the number of people entering Western Australia tied to the number who are in Operation Tide to be able to cope with the influx of people coming from the east coast, from the ports or wherever into Western Australia? Is there a cap based on the numbers in that operation?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I think the simple answer is no. Clearly, as has been widely publicised, there is an international cap. That has effectively been set by the commonwealth. Until recently in Western Australia, our component of that international cap was 1 025 people a week. That number increased by 140 this week, so we are up to 1 165, which I think is in place for the next four weeks at this stage. We are a little at the behest of the commonwealth with respect to those international caps. We are not assessing people on the basis that we have a cap. We are assessing people on the criteria that are listed in that G2G PASS application form. The commissioner can provide further information or delegate it to one of the other officers if he wants.

**Mr C. Dawson:** Assistant Commissioner Paul Steel is the operational head. He will be able to answer questions related to land borders and other travellers who arrive. By volume, they primarily enter the state by air but we also have land borders in maritime.

**Mr P. Steel:** Since 5 April, when the “Quarantine (Closing the Border) Directions” came into effect, 16 678 international travellers have arrived in accordance with the caps that have been set, and 69 696 domestic travellers. Travellers into Western Australia can enter the state under the “Quarantine (Closing the Border) Directions” only if they meet one of the exemption criteria. The number of people who can get in is based not on the resourcing for Operation Tide, but rather on those who qualify for an exemption to enter Western Australia. A total of 237 people have been refused entry at the airport. They have actually arrived and been turned around because they have not had appropriate authorisation or they do not meet the criteria under section 27 of the closing the border directions. About 660 land border travellers likewise have been refused entry and been turned around because they have not met those criteria.

[7.30 pm]

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** When did the G2G PASS come in. Was it in April?

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**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** March.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** March?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** No, March was when we put the direction in place.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Is the minister able to provide the number of people a month who have been approved through the G2G PASS from the commencement of the pass until today, through a supplementary, unless the commissioner has that detail?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I suspect we have some information that we can give the member tonight, if anyone is putting their hand up? No; they are drawing a blank. I will pass over to the commissioner.

**Mr C. Dawson:** The number of G2G applications that we have on hand and are processing at the moment is 3 296. That is of last evening. We are still assessing some 2 965. That is only a current point in time snapshot. The member's question about how many we have had on the G2G itself, we will have to get as supplementary information, unless one of my colleagues has found it in the meantime. We obviously do keep statistics, it is a digital system, but we would have to —

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** One of the difficulties with getting information is that people make multiple applications. The number of applications and the number of people are two different figures.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** They should be two different figures that the government should be able to apply, because it is digital; therefore, I would have thought it would be quite easy.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** That is right. I will ask Deputy Commissioner Dreibergs whether he can provide any further clarity on that.

**Mr G. Dreibergs:** The clarity I can provide for the member is relative to the G2G PASS system. The G2G PASS system was established as a process that in the first instance was to allow truck drivers to travel within Western Australia when we had the intrastate borders. It was designed purely to allow fast movement between those intrastate borders. It was being developed over time and refined more and more over time. At no point was it designed as a data collection tool. It was never established to collect data. Additional to that, it is extremely difficult for the system to identify all the categories of people who may or may not be exempt, because those directions have been changing significantly over the period of COVID. We have different arrangements all the time, and different directions come out relative to persons travelling and permitted to travel to Western Australia. That includes all persons exempt. The issue is that the system has not collected data. It is not verified data. Therefore, unlike our crime statistics, whereby we keep the verified data within our system and we provide that accurately, we cannot provide the member with accurate data from day one of how the G2G PASS has operated, because the system was never established to collect data in the very first instance. When the system was created, the intention was to allow Western Australians to move safely, freely and as quickly as possible throughout the state. It then moved to a system to allow people from outside Western Australia to move quickly and efficiently into the state. That was the intention of the system. Unfortunately, it does not have the level of data that the member would expect it to have. Certainly, we have been working on that to get the systems to start collating data, but I could not stand here, hand on heart, and say that I will be able to give the member accurate data about the number of people who applied to enter Western Australia in April.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Surely the minister would be able to provide data for the last three months of the G2G PASS and the different sets of circumstances through which people applied for it, whether through work or hardship. Surely the minister would have some of that information from over the last three months, given there has been three months to improve the systems and collate the information. Surely the government should be basing the need and the resources to put into it on the number of people who are applying or coming through.

**The CHAIR:** Member, could you just maybe state more succinctly what you are after and the minister can indicate whether —

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Not since its inception, but for the last three months, how many people have entered Western Australia through that G2G PASS?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** That is something that the member can put in a question on notice, and we will endeavour to give him what information we can. I think what Deputy Commissioner Dreibergs has attempted to make very clear is that we have a system in place here that is the best in Australia. No-one was expecting this pandemic; no-one was expecting to set up a process for the hard borders. I can tell the member that, as Mr Dreibergs said, we set it up for those intrastate borders, so that truck drivers would not have to get stuck in a queue for hours on end, or anyone else for that matter who wanted to come through. The member will have seen on television news people queuing up to go from New South Wales into Queensland. We know that people are processed through our airport much more quickly than they are in Victoria, thanks to the G2G PASS. We know that because we set up this kind of application

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and pass as an online system so that for any one individual, we can see a whole history. That has been integral to our system; that has been hugely valuable.

What Mr Dreiberger attempted to explain is that we have not set it up as a kind of data collection system in which we have annotated how many people applied, and who got a pass for what reason and so on and so forth. It has been an evolving thing. The reason that being able to get a pass has changed over time is that the directions have changed for whom we have allowed in. To give the member another example, when Victoria suddenly had that outbreak, people who had pass applications and approvals in the system were automatically denied, because suddenly the directions changed. The rules effectively changed and people who previously would have got a pass or had even got a pass were then denied because of the outbreak that occurred in Victoria. It has very much been a movable feast. It is not easy to give the member the information that he wants. I am not going to ask senior police and others to turn their attention to try to go through the system to collate new information in the format that the member requires, but if he puts a question on notice, and within the time frame that is provided for a supplementary answer to estimates, we will endeavour to give the member what information we have in the system.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I am asking for the number of people who have been accepted. Forget about the criteria, whether it is hardship, work or for whatever other reason they have been able to come through. The minister cannot tell me how many people have been agreed through the G2G PASS to enter into Western Australia over the last three months. She cannot provide just the basic number, month by month, for the last three months.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** We can provide that. Put the question on notice and it will be provided.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I would have thought that that information is critical in being able to know how many police officers are dedicated to —

**The CHAIR:** That is a separate question.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** The member has had the response that if he puts the question on notice, we will provide him the information that we can.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** This is estimates. This is being able to actually —

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** The member is not actually asking about the budget as such. The member is asking about a program. We have been very generous in answering details about COVID and the program.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** That is to do with the budget.

**The CHAIR:** Ten questions have been asked on this matter, member. You have already had your go at this, member.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** All I want to clarify is that the commissioner, in one of his answers to the member for North West Central —

**The CHAIR:** All right, ask the question quickly.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** — indicated he was prepared to provide some supplementary information.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** The member well knows that I am the one who says whether we provide supplementary information or not.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** I understand that, but I would like to request from the minister that that offer from the commissioner to provide supplementary information be accepted and it be given a number so that we can obtain that information.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** As the member would be aware, there is a time frame involved. The obligation falls upon me to provide supplementary information to Parliament in a tight time frame ahead of our consideration of the budget.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** The commissioner indicated he was prepared to provide it.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** The member has had the answer.

**The CHAIR:** Member, we are not here to debate. There have been 10 questions answered.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** Put the question on notice and I will attempt to answer it promptly.

**Mr V.A. Catania** interjected.

**The CHAIR:** Members!

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** How hard is it to say how many people got the G2G PASS?

**The CHAIR:** I will call you to order, member for Hillarys.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** What about being open and transparent? How many people got the G2G PASS in the last three months?

[7.40 pm]

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**The CHAIR:** The member for North West Central indicated that he had a question on another issue.

**Mr S.A. MILLMAN:** I have a further question on Operation Tide.

**The CHAIR:** The member for Mount Lawley.

**Mr S.A. MILLMAN:** A rising tide lifts all boats. This is a virulent and highly contagious virus and our police officers are putting themselves in harm's way to keep our community safe. I know the minister is concerned about keeping our police officers safe. What measures have been put in place to protect police officers and provide for their occupational health and safety in the face of COVID-19?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** As the member for Mount Lawley is clearly aware, I have a huge commitment to keep our police officers safe. People in here will be aware that we have put in place some additional legislative measures to do with penalties for people who threaten that they have COVID and then spit at or assault a police officer, and for those who may actually have COVID. In addition, we have fast-tracked a range of things that will protect our police officers. For example, we have fast-tracked the rollout of body-worn cameras. That is a \$24.6 million program. Generally, the community responds well to knowing that the cameras are there. They protect police officers. Ultimately, more and more people in the community will become aware that their behaviour will be recorded because the police have cameras on them. Therefore, if they assault or threaten a police officer or do something else, the whole incident will be recorded. We went through years of not having that independent recording and people would sometimes take an excerpt from a mobile phone to a television station or wherever and say, "Look what this police officer did." They showed none of the lead-up, none of the provocation and none of the offensive things that the individual said or did, so that is important.

Another measure that we have put in place is the scheme for the vests. That is a \$19.2 million program to provide personal-issue body armour. The number of officers is also important so that there are sufficient officers on the frontline to deal with COVID and other associated issues. That is why we utilised for a time fast-tracking officers from the academy. We made that commitment back in April, immediately in addition to the 150 additional officers, so that we could provide support. We have also funded 200 electronic monitoring devices—effectively, ankle bracelets—so that we can protect police officers. We have put in place 100 automatic number plate recognition devices. Members might ask what that has to do with protecting police officers and the community from COVID. One of the things that can be done with that equipment, for example, is that if a person is required to quarantine, police will take note of the vehicle the person usually drives, and the registration plate can be uploaded into our ANPR system. Therefore, if that number plate is seen out and about, it is immediately drawn to the police's attention. That is about keeping the community safe.

Getting to the member's point about the safety of officers, I think it is important for officers to have the best information available to them about the health of the person driving the vehicle. For example, if that person was supposed to be quarantining because there is a belief they might have COVID, when pulling that vehicle over, the police officer needs to know that the driver of the vehicle should be in quarantine and therefore might have COVID and that he or she needs to take the appropriate protective measures.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** Can I ask a further question on that?

**The CHAIR:** It is a further question on a matter that the opposition has already asked eight questions on.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** I could ask a new question, then.

**The CHAIR:** Yes, and the member can get in line. The member for North West Central is the next in line.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I refer to the tracking and tracing capabilities under the heading "COVID-19 WA Recovery Plan" on page 417 of budget paper No 2. I notice that in this year's budget and in the forward estimates quite a bit of money is dedicated to tracking and tracing. Is that solely to do with ankle bracelets for COVID-19 and for what the minister just said regarding preparing for COVID-19 to be around for quite a while? Is the government therefore allocating the funds needed to be able to track and trace and put ankle bracelets on as many people as the government sees fit?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** The tracking and tracing capacity is very useful for COVID-19 and it was purchased for that. However, most of the devices and things that we have purchased have many other policing applications. I might get the commissioner or one of the other officers to explain that further. For example, yes, we purchased extra automatic number plate recognition technology devices for COVID-19, but it is very useful in many other applications. We have fitted out 85 police vehicles and 15 specialised trailers with that technology. Similarly, there is a range of other applications for electronic monitoring tracking devices. It is a little about futureproofing. We are not using all those tracking devices at this time, but we need to know that we have the capacity. I will get the commissioner to add something.

**Mr C. Dawson:** In the period we sought budget approvals to procure the 200 tracking devices, for instance, which are identical to the electronic monitoring bracelets used by the Department of Justice —

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**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** How much are the 200 devices worth?

**Mr C. Dawson:** Deputy Commissioner Blanch, who is overseeing that program, could add to that.

In April, when we were facing community transmission infections, everything was looking gloomier than it is looking now in October. Having said that, we had to prepare for a widespread community outbreak. They were the facts. The member might recall the vessels *Artania* and the *Vasco da Gama*. We had thousands of people arriving. In the case of the German cruise liner, large numbers of people were infected, some of whom, sadly, passed away. That is the context of the moment in time that we procured the 200 electronic bracelets. I have issued orders for four people who were in quarantine but, due to their behaviour and risk profile, I was satisfied that they required, in addition to quarantine, to be fitted with an electronic monitoring bracelet, which geolocates them within metres. That is a system that we use in our State Operations Command Centre and it also has broader applications, which, with the consent of the minister, Deputy Commissioner Blanch could expand on.

My closing remark is that I credit the Western Australian community for supporting what Health and Police are doing. I call it policing by consent. We have issued upwards of only around 300 infringements for people in this state who have breached since the emergency was declared. That is a very sharp differential between us and another Australian jurisdiction that has seen over 30 000 people breach. It is probably no surprise which jurisdiction that it is. It has been a very different environment. We procured the electronic bracelets in anticipation of what might be a widespread COVID-19 outbreak or widespread breaching, but they have a very valuable application. With the minister's consent, Mr Blanch could expand on what other applications it has and the price per unit.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** The budgeted amount for the GPS tracking devices is \$3 million in total. I ask Mr Blanch to add further comments.

**Mr C. Blanch:** The electronic monitoring bracelets are around \$6 000 apiece, and there are 200 of them. Doing the maths, that does not equal \$3 million. Prior to COVID-19 coming to Western Australia, we did not have the capacity to monitor electronic monitoring bracelets within the State Operations Command Centre. We also built a back end that enabled our data to come together—not only the electronic monitoring data, but also all the other data that police collect. The tracking and tracing capability, including the automatic numberplate recognition and the electronic monitoring, is a very powerful tool. Western Australia police take the privacy of Western Australians very seriously. We put an ethical use of technology framework around the use of these technologies. Section 70A of the Emergency Management Act, which was included as part of the act when COVID started, allowed the use of electronic monitors. We had to rapidly put together a capability to do that and to put those on people, which we have done four times, as the commissioner said.

As to the ANPR network, as I think everyone appreciates, for a state of our size, it does not matter how many police we have; it is very difficult to keep track of people who might be escaping authority. We use that very judiciously around identifying people when they are breaching quarantine. As the minister said, we have an alert system that pings if someone has breached quarantine. Under new amendments to the Bail Act, we are running a pilot with Mandurah Magistrates Court around recidivist offenders. We can also use the ANPR to find people at risk—so, people who have threatened suicide, people who have gone missing, and people who have committed offences that involve a penalty of three years' imprisonment or more. It is a very, very successful tool for police and it keeps the community safe.

[7.50 pm]

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I refer the minister to the line item “Body Armour” on page 418 under “Spending Changes”. I ask for an update on the rollout of body armour and how it is being used to protect police officers.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Read the ministerial statement!

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I am glad the member for North West Central was listening. I thank the member for Armadale for that question. The body armour project has been very close to my heart. It is something that has needed to be put in place for some time. We used to have the old ballistic vests; they were heavy, they were not personal issue and they were not useful for current purposes in which police officers face the threat of knives, syringes and other sharp implements. The other factor was that we clearly needed to have vests that were as lightweight as possible whilst providing the protection to withstand a bullet. I actually saw a demonstration of the vest. These are state-of-the-art vests; they are the best in the world. They are personally fitted. As the member for North West Central alluded to, I made a statement recently that I got to meet Mrs Ethne Moller, who is actually from Victoria, who had been right around the state. She and her husband shared the driving as they towed their caravan out to regional areas. She flew to a few locations in the police plane, but she largely travelled the length and breadth of our state towing a caravan. It was a \$19 million commitment. They are personal issue. Thinking about the COVID-19 pandemic, I am really pleased that police got individual personal-issue vests. An officer does not want to be popping on a vest that has someone else's sweat and everything else in it! As Mrs Moller pointed out to me, after a while the vests mould



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to the body. It is a bit like a pair of shoes that have been worn for a while; the vest moulds to the body. It makes for a much higher level of comfort.

The member for Armadale requested an update. As at the end of September, 6 203 officers had been measured and 3 611 have had their kits delivered. The remaining vests will be supplied in early 2021. I am told that storage for those vests has been installed at 98 sites so far. By sites, we generally mean police stations or units. It is very important that police have a proper, what I will call, airing cupboard. It is not quite an airing cupboard, but these vests do need to be stored appropriately.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** On that same item, in an earlier response to the member for Mount Lawley, the minister indicated that the cost of that program was about \$19.2 million. In last year's budget and in her ministerial statement in, I think, April 2019, the cost was indicated to be \$15.4 million for 6 200 vests—three more than had been measured up, so around about the same. What explains the 25 per cent increase in the cost of the rollout of the body armour from last year's budget and the minister's press release of 13 April and now?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** Quite obviously, since last year's budget we have been through that selection process and let the contract. Inspector Brett Baddock headed up that process for us. Effectively, we have spared no expense. We have bought the best possible vests for our officers. As I said, they are state of the art. They are exceptional in terms of the calibre of bullets and the proximity from which someone can fire one of those bullets at the vest and for it not to impact on an officer. We have the very best, and that is what the total cost has come in at.

**Mr K.M. O'DONNELL:** On behalf of most Western Australians, I wish to thank all police officers for their commitment and dedication to keeping us safe during these times.

I refer to the fourth paragraph on page 419 of budget paper No 2. The heading at the top of the page is "Keeping Communities Safer Together". There will be 800 additional police officers, which is a very good thing. It also says that there will be an additional 150 officers in the next four years as part of the recovery plan, which will take the number to just under 1 000. Besides those additional police officers, how many will go through over the forward estimates—this year and the next three years—to take it well over 1 000?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I will get one of the advisers, maybe the commissioner, to give the member some further detail about the numbers we will need to cover for attrition. All of the officers we have committed to are over and above attrition. The member will be aware that we have already delivered about 150 officers within the last three years. A hundred were for the meth border force, 25 were for the regional enforcement unit on regional roads, a number were for the 24-hour and extended-hours police stations, and some others were allocated to domestic violence matters and other tasks, taking the total number to about 150. The 150 we committed to in April are already training and, in committing to a further 800, that will take our total to 1 100. Committing to that 800—that is 200 per year—it is starting this year. I did hear someone suggest that they were being back-ended. I understand that is a technique that some governments have deployed at various times. It is not something that we are doing. The 150, plus the initial 200, are in the 2019–20 budget, they are in this budget and they are underway. In addition, there is the 200 in each of those three out years, taking the total to 950, or an overall total of 1 100 provided by the McGowan government. In addition to that—the member is quite right—we will need to cover for attrition. I will just pass over to the commissioner to talk about those kinds of numbers because we are planning for that at the academy. We really are ramping up the number of recruit schools through the academy.

**Mr C. Dawson:** In regard to the totality of the additional police officers, the number of 950 means that in the first financial year a total of 350 additional will be recruited, and thereafter 200 per year for the following three financial years to make a total of 950 FTE. We have already recruited the first 150 police officers that were announced by the government in April this year; therefore, while they are appropriated in this current financial year, we will have completed that recruitment and graduating process in April of next year. The first 150 will have completed their full 27–28 weeks training. Taking into account the matter of attrition, we are planning for an average of 330 full-time equivalents per annum, which takes into account the additional officers plus the natural attrition that will occur with people resigning and/or passing away. With that, that is the estimate that will be required per annum. Obviously, a big recruiting campaign is underway. Mr Dreibergs may have further details should the member wish for any further information.

[8.00 pm]

**Mr G. Dreibergs:** I have nothing further to add.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** It is fantastic that the budget provides for so many extra police officers. With these new police officers in the budget, is there a policy in the police force that there has to be a minimum of three police officers at a police station?

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**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** The smaller stations have two. There are no single-officer stations. There were single-officer stations during the Court government but we got rid of them when the Gallop government was elected in 2001. The member's father actually campaigned on that issue from opposition.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** It is good that we share the same vigour to try to get more police officers. Are there any single-manned police stations at the moment, particularly in regional WA?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** There is single officer staffing rather than manning at a station. I understand that the member is aware of one such station.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Yes.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I think Mr Dreiberger might have some information on that because in his role as deputy commissioner, he has responsibility for regional Western Australia.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** They are all good police officers, by the way, who do a fantastic job.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** They do.

**Mr G. Dreiberger:** If the member is referring to Pannawonica and Paraburdoo Police Stations, they have recently been assisting in the Exmouth police district to cover the Coral Bay issue with extra persons there on school holidays and over this period of time with lots of people travelling up north. We have had officers from two locations working in Coral Bay. We always deploy our resources in the best possible way that we can to meet the greatest needs at any point in time. In those two locations, yes, we have had officers away working in Coral Bay.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** That is interesting, because I thought that maybe police officers might be on leave and therefore the stations cannot have anyone come in and that is why they have only one police officer. The minister might want to check that out. I am glad that Mr Dreiberger mentioned Coral Bay and Exmouth—this is a further question about police resources—especially at the moment, with the influx of tourists. I think there was an influx of 20 000 people in Exmouth and 6 000 in Coral Bay, with no extra police officers resourced to Exmouth, which covers Coral Bay. Exmouth has four police officers, and no police in attendance, with 6 000 people down the road at Coral Bay. Exmouth's four police officers would normally cover the 2 500 who live and reside in Exmouth.

**The CHAIR:** Is there a question at the end of this?

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** With an influx of 20 000 people in Exmouth plus 6 000 down the road, will there be any extra police resources in not only Exmouth, where they are desperately needed, but also resources, police officers, in Coral Bay?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** Of course, the Commissioner of Police allocates police officers to where they are needed and if he thinks police officers are desperately needed somewhere, he sends them there. He obviously gets advice about regional WA from Deputy Commissioner Dreiberger and Assistant Commissioner Jo McCabe, both of whom the member would be familiar with and would see regularly in his electorate. I understand that there have been significantly greater numbers of people visiting Coral Bay. It is anticipated that the kind of season of tourists and people enjoying Coral Bay will probably be much longer. We are expecting that to be extended. As the member is well aware, Coral Bay is a beautiful place for families and individuals to go on holiday to fish, swim, camp, whatever. One of the factors that the police take into account is crime in an area; that is, how many call-outs there have been and the purpose of those call-outs. As the member is well aware, in season a roster of police goes from Exmouth to Coral Bay. Officers are from time to time deployed from Carnarvon to Coral Bay, which is a much further distance to travel. I understand that Kim Massam, the superintendent for the region, met with the development commission and perhaps the shire to talk about the additional resources that are needed right across a range of government agencies. The police are very happy to participate in those talks. I think that on occasions—Mr Dreiberger or the commissioner can clarify this—and during key times, police officers will use hotel or private accommodation in Coral Bay if they need to stay there —

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** If they can get it.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** If they can get it, yes. They have arrangements in place. I understand why the member is asking the question. It is not just a population base that determines police numbers; it is also the level of crime that comes with it, and I suspect that there is not a lot of crime necessarily in Coral Bay. I will ask the commissioner to talk.

**Mr C. Dawson:** In regard to the resource allocation, I reserve the right to deploy officers where they can be best utilised to protect the community throughout the state. We obviously take note of not only population density, but also the number of liquor outlets, the road traffic and safety issues associated with people travelling up and down particularly regional highways, and myriad other datasets. Obviously, in regard to the specific locality of Coral Bay, Superintendent Massam was scheduled to meet with the Coral Bay Progress Association only yesterday but, unfortunately, it was cancelled, not by the police, and has to be rescheduled. It is ongoing dialogue with the local progress association and the local community. We are heading into a warm weekend this weekend. As we do in

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the metropolitan area, we will put additional resources at Scarborough Beach, for instance, and we do that equally in regional areas when there are not only events but extra holidaymakers. I do not say that just because the member is sitting here; it is a fact. On average, the Coral Bay area has about 20 incident reports a year. By rate of offending, it is not the busiest locality but that does not mean that we ignore it. We routinely place officers there during peak season, as I am sure the member would be aware as a local member. One of the things that I am aware of is that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a large influx of intrastate tourism. I have had to travel around a bit myself and I have seen the very vibrant movement of people. With the additional 150 officers, I have met with my senior executive team and we anticipate to put an additional 100 sworn officers throughout regional Western Australia, which will include the districts that cover this area. I will not necessarily particularise Coral Bay because we do not have police infrastructure there, but those are the sorts of discussions that we are having with the local community. Obviously, we will brief the minister accordingly should there be a resource requirement that says that is deserving of a permanent position. We will deploy as evenly as we can, depending on the demand and requirements.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** In terms of police resourcing, the commissioner mentioned Carnarvon and the influx of tourists. Mt Augustus is a classic example with three deaths in one week, which required a huge amount of resource from Carnarvon and Burringurrah and leaves those communities quite open. With the pressure that JobSeeker puts on a community like Carnarvon in terms of alcohol and drugs, police in Carnarvon are under immense pressure, as the commissioner would know, with not only the local population but also the influx of tourists, such as those who visit Mt Augustus.

Will any more resources be deployed to Carnarvon, because that is becoming a major issue?

[8.10 pm]

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I commend the member for North West Central for taking the opportunity to raise the need for additional resources for his electorate in the presence of the commissioner, the two deputy commissioners and other senior police personnel. I think they have got the message loud and clear; he has made the case. The commissioner will consider that along with all the other requests that he gets.

**Mr S.A. MILLMAN:** My question also concerns the 800 additional FTEs. As the minister knows, community safety is a very important issue in my community of Mt Lawley. We have a couple of a very active Facebook pages and the newly established Mt Lawley Neighbourhood Watch. How will the additional 800 police officers provide additional community safety, both in my community of Mt Lawley, working in concert with the Neighbourhood Watch, and across Western Australia generally?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I thank the member for Mount Lawley for the question. As I have already highlighted, the commissioner will prioritise officers on a needs basis, but there are some clear areas of priority. There has not been much negative comment. Most people in the community have really welcomed the additional 950 police officers that the McGowan government has now committed to and they can see the benefits of that. I see that a very small minority of people think that will mean we will get a police state and just lock up more people in jail. That is certainly not the intent. The police do a lot of proactive work in the community. Those communities that are lucky enough to have a police and community youth centre in their area know that the work that police do with youth in those centres is sensational and deters people from getting involved in crime. Even where there are no PCYCs in regional communities and other places, there are Blue Light discos and police get involved in football and basketball matches. They do a lot of really proactive things.

We have found that the mental health co-response teams have been an incredibly effective way of dealing with people. We do not want people to continually give rise to police call-outs. The mental health co-response teams can link people with the mental health assistance they need by getting them in front of their practitioner or getting them some appropriate support. That avoids them getting in trouble with the law and future police call-outs.

There are currently a lot of demands on our police officers. Mental health and drug issues are at the forefront, as is domestic violence. The number of domestic assaults is on the up right around Australia. Some of that is potentially attributable to the impacts of COVID. I am sure that people around the world are analysing that. When we put a priority on educating the community that an assault in the home is not a private thing but is an assault and a crime that needs to be reported to police and that the perpetrators need to be dealt with, we encourage more people to come forward and report it. We have provided those support networks.

I am very excited about the additional number of police officers. I know that the commissioner is looking forward to sending some more officers out to regional Western Australia. Again, I commend the member for drawing attention to Mt Lawley and all the suburbs that make up the beautiful electorate that he represents, as I would only have expected him to.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** I refer to the fourteenth dot point on page 420 under the heading “Keeping Communities Safer Together”, which starts on page 419 and continues to page 420, which is about workforce safety, health and

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welfare. I think we are all supportive of a very positive and safe workforce environment for our police officers, who do such a great job. Can the minister provide an update to the house on any progress that has been made around police compensation, which has been promised by both sides of politics for a long time; and whether it is anticipated that the legislation that is required to give effect to that compensation piece will be introduced into this place during this term?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** Yes. I anticipate giving an update on that in the course of the next month or so.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** Does that mean that legislation will be introduced or not?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** The member will be aware that we made some commitments about police-specific compensation at the last election. We have already moved on some elements of that; for example, we have put in place the \$16 million redress scheme. That is a first in Australia. Nowhere else has any government in Australia moved to try to provide some recognition of wrongs that were done in the past. The member also knows that police officers used to be dismissed under section 8, which is the same section of the Police Act used to dismiss those who had brought themselves into disrepute some way or another. That was a pretty undignified way of leaving. We have had a planned process for this. We have amended the Police Act so that officers who need to retire because they are medically unfit are no longer sent out through section 8, which is the same section under which those officers who might be deemed to be corrupt are dismissed. We have moved, with the support of the Medically Retired West Australian Police Officers Association, to implement the redress scheme, which, I think, concluded in May of this year.

Although people say that police do not have any workers' compensation, that is not a true statement overall. Many elements of the treatment of injured and sick police officers are superior to those that other workers get, and rightfully so. Police officers run towards danger and put themselves on the front line, so they need to have that support. Our police officers can have up to 168 days of sick leave, for example, and all their medical expenses are covered. People in other workplaces, such as nurses, teachers, bus drivers or whatever do not get those kinds of leave entitlements or that automatic payment of their medical bills and support. If, for one reason or another, 168 days of sick leave in a year is not enough to recover, they can apply to have that extended. Over the years, there have been a large number of examples of that being extended. There are people who have had a year or more worth of sick leave on full pay with their medical bills paid. Some years ago, we also moved to ensure that medical expenses could be paid post-retirement and we put a process in place for that. That was something that I initiated and was carried on by John Kobelke. I think the legislation was finally brought into the Parliament by Christian Porter. I thank him for the recognition he gave me for instigating that scheme when he introduced that legislation. The gap is complicated because it is not just about standard workers' compensation. If police wanted standard workers' compensation like every other government worker, they could have had it 20 or 30 years ago. Police officers do not want to give up their existing entitlements to 168 days of sick leave a year, with the right of extension; the right to have all their medical expenses paid whilst they are on the job; and for those ongoing medical expenses to be paid post-retirement. We will not take any of that away from them. The gap is a termination payment for those who need to be terminated, and we are nearing a stage where I will be able to make an offer to the WA Police Union and put something forward, and I look forward to doing that.

[8.20 pm]

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I refer to page 418 of budget paper No 2, volume 2, and the line items "Operation Heat Shield" and "Other COVID-19—Operating Costs".

**The CHAIR:** What number sorry, member?

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** It is under "New Initiatives" in the table on page 418. Is the minister able to detail how many people in hotel quarantine have had their fees waived under the hardship program? Does that come under "Operation Heat Shield" or "Other COVID-19—Operating Costs"?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** No. Operation Heat Shield was \$5 million that we allocated for the period from last November to April, mainly for overtime, so that we could deploy officers over the summer period. It is a worldwide phenomenon that crime increases over summer. In summer periods, people are outdoors, socialising and enjoying themselves or whatever, so we tend to see more assaults and more crime, and, also, kids are on school holidays and we see more shoplifting and other events like that. Therefore, that was really a crime reduction strategy to have a visible police presence in key areas, whether it was the city, Northbridge, Joondalup or Armadale, or country centres. A proportion of that money was spent in regional Western Australia, but most of it was spent in metropolitan Western Australia, but it is nothing to do with COVID.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** As I said, does hotel quarantine come under "Other COVID-19—Operating Costs" in terms of any fees that have been waived due to hardship? Do people who have had their fees for hotel quarantine waived because of hardship come under the police budget at all?

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**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** The costs of hotel quarantine and any waivers associated with that do not come under Police; I understand it comes under the Department of Health. The Commissioner of Police has just prompted me that it also comes under the Department of Communities. Health has a major role; the Department of Communities looks at the hardship cases.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** Just a further question on Operation Heat Shield. The minister explained the purposes of Operation Heat Shield, and \$5 million was allocated in the budget for it. I have asked a question on notice about this. I note that the largest portion of overtime costs allocated to Operation Heat Shield was in May this year, when more than \$1 million was allocated. It is interesting that a large part of Operation Heat Shield was for the city and Northbridge, but nightclubs were not allowed to be open in April and May. Therefore, why was almost 40 per cent—such a disproportionate amount—of all the funds expended on overtime through Operation Heat Shield between December and June expended in April and May, when Northbridge was at its quietest?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** There were some quiet periods in Northbridge in terms of dealing with night-time activities. Pubs and clubs were largely closed. There were plenty of photos on social media and elsewhere of James Street with no-one standing in it. I understand that \$1.3 million of that \$5 million funding was allocated to regional Western Australia, so it is not fair to categorise it as a Northbridge and city program. There was \$1.3 million for the regions and \$3.7 million for the metropolitan area.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Does it include Mandurah?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** Mandurah is regional, yes.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** What about outside —

**The CHAIR:** Member, you are not asking the question at the moment.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** The member will have to ask the member for Mandurah about that; he will probably sing the answer for him!

Operation Heat Shield was a very successful program. In the metropolitan area, there were some 4 822 charges; 1 982 arrests; 1 228 summonses; 48 juvenile justice team referrals; 346 Criminal Code infringement notices; 6 281 retailer engagements, for which we got very positive feedback; 263 move-on notices issued; 1 643 homeless welfare checks; and 607 other referrals.

In regional Western Australia—pointing out that it is not just a Northbridge or city thing—there were 1 060 charges; 518 arrests; 197 summonses; 25 juvenile justice team referrals; 37 Criminal Code infringement notices; 1 607 retailer engagements; 51 move-on notices issued; and 1 038 licensed premise patrols. I understand that over that time crime was well below the five-year average. In respect of month-to-month expenditure, it was clearly allocated on a needs basis. Perhaps Deputy Commissioner Dreiergs might have some more detail on that.

**Mr G. Dreiergs:** Police expenditure of Operation Heat Shield money was spent evenly over a period of time. I am not sure what the accounting was in terms of the last expenditure in May, but I can tell the member that it was not just about focusing on events or Northbridge. It was very heavily focused on regional WA and metropolitan districts as well. It was focused on volume crime offending, so really targeting those who were involved in burglary, motor vehicle theft, assaults and robberies. We increased our sanction rate significantly. If we are talking about Perth in the month of May, we were quite effective in having a very high sanction rate for robberies, which meant that a lot of the money was spent on overtime towards officers doing investigations relating to offences that occurred during the period of Operation Heat Shield. Effectively, the way that Heat Shield operated was that there was a very high visible presence in the Perth CBD, supported heavily by an investigative approach in terms of targeting repeat, recidivist offenders in the CBD and outwards into all the districts as well.

It also targeted high-harm areas in regional WA. Meekatharra, Geraldton and other areas were targeted for high-harm around alcohol abuse in hotels, bottle shops and other places that were of high risk of causing harm to the community at that point in time. It was effectively used across the entire period; it was not just for Perth in the summer. It was very well planned over that period, right through to May. In an operational police context, we had monthly reporting from the districts. Each individual police district reported to us on every single operation they were conducting to target volume crime and to provide highly visible policing at that time.

**Ms E. HAMILTON:** I refer to page 419, under “Significant Issues Impacting the Agency”, particularly with regard to the Aboriginal cadet program. As the member for Joondalup, I am quite fortunate to have the Western Australia Police Academy in my electorate. The minister and I have both attended quite a number of events; in fact, back in 2018 I attended the Aboriginal cadet program graduation, which was great. I would like details on the numbers from 2017–18 and the current numbers, and the plans for 2020–21.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I thank the member for Joondalup for her excellent question and for her support of the police. I am very pleased that she was able to attend our recent police Remembrance Day ceremony at the Joondalup

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academy. The member's presence there was certainly appreciated. The member has asked about the cadet program. It has been in place for a while. Our commissioner has identified our police force as not having sufficient numbers of Aboriginal people. That is no more obvious than when people go somewhere like the Pilbara or the Kimberley. A high percentage of Indigenous people live in the general population, yet those who police it do not reflect that diversity. We are really keen to have a more diverse police force that reflects the general community. We want to see more Aboriginal people in the roles of police officers or auxiliary officers. That is why the Commissioner of Police signalled that we would limit the intake of Aboriginal people into our cadet program in some years, now that it has been diversified to include Aboriginal people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Regarding the program numbers that the member asked me about, I understand that in the cadet program in 2017, there were 10 Aboriginal people; in 2018, it was increased to 33 Aboriginal people; in 2019, there were 15 Aboriginal people and 10 people from CALD backgrounds; and in 2020, there were 13 Aboriginal people and 15 people from CALD backgrounds. As of 1 October 2020, 58 are cadets in training. Our next program will commence in January 2021.

*Meeting suspended from 8.30 to 8.40 pm*

**The CHAIR:** We are dealing with division 28 and we now have a quorum. The member for Scarborough has the call.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** I refer to the “WA Recovery Plan and COVID-19 Pandemic Response” on page 418. Regarding border security arrangements, can the minister advise whether the police officers who are currently working at the airport have their own facilities, including a crib room and a dedicated washroom, or do they need to share those facilities with the passengers at the terminal?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I will ask Assistant Commissioner Paul Steel to respond to that.

**Mr P. Steel:** Yes, I can advise that, as we work our way through those locations—bear in mind there are multiple airports—we have arranged, through Health, to take over one of the private lounges that is not currently being used. Police officers are able to use that space. Police officers will move from terminal to terminal, so there may be occasions when they are not able to access private facilities, but they are available. We have made a significant investment in the spaces where officers process passengers. If members have been at the airport recently, as opposed to in the early days when trestle tables were set up, they will see we have invested quite heavily in booths designed by the health department with perspex to protect officers from interacting with people who might be COVID-positive. As much as we can, we have tried to make sure that those officers are catered for with their personal protective equipment, in comfort and via rostering to ensure they are not disadvantaged by working away from a police location.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Can the minister advise when the arrangements were made for the lounges? On what date were the lounges made available to police officers?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I will refer that question to AC Steel.

**Mr P. Steel:** That process happened more recently when we moved to a single terminal. We negotiated with the airlines to come in at a single location. In the early days, that was not the case. Officers were using facilities within the airport or with the assistance of the areas used by the Australian Federal Police. It has been only in the past months that we have been able to utilise the lounges at those locations. As I said, it will not always be the case depending on which terminal police officers are at, but when we have been able to coordinate lounges, it has been the case.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Is any cost being borne by WA Police for the use of those facilities?

**Mr P. Steel:** At this stage, WA Police is not funding the lounge. It is being supported through Health. However, on an ongoing basis, as the Health footprint is not as prevalent at the airport, that arrangement may change. The costs relating to the additional equipment, the personal protective equipment and the desks et cetera, have been borne by WA Police.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Further to the cost of the PPE and equivalent, what PPE are the officers provided with and how many changes are they permitted per shift?

**Mr P. Steel:** The use of PPE has changed as the pandemic has progressed. In the early days, the advice from Health in terms of what PPE was required, how long it could be used for and what stocks of PPE were available, varied quite rapidly. Compared with some other policing jurisdictions, we were one of the only policing jurisdictions that put in place a very early process to monitor and ensure that our police officers have sufficient personal protective equipment. One of those purchases was re-usable masks. They do not look particularly pretty. They are black, they look quite confronting and, frankly, they are difficult to speak through. We had a health assessment done because the safety of our officers during airport processing is paramount. One of the pieces of advice that Health came back to us with was that using those re-usable masks, although they were personal issue and we were trying to do the right thing, increased the risk to officers because they had to talk louder. It meant that the masks would move and they had to continually move the masks around their face. Every time they moved the mask around their face without changing gloves, washing their hands and those sorts of things, the risk of transmission increased. Health very kindly

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provided us with some guidelines on what masks were appropriate for that activity. That led to the creation of the desks with the barriers and the frequency at which those masks needed to be changed per shift. Officers are provided ample PPE to change gloves, glasses and masks with proper set donning and doffing procedures as often is required during a shift. That will vary from person to person. Although we can say that a disposable face mask may last a person one to two hours, if that mask becomes wet because of the amount of time someone is speaking or expiring, it needs to be replaced earlier. It may be that some officers are required to change their mask on a regular basis. A supervisor monitors the donning and doffing procedures at all times to make sure that when officers are putting on and taking off their personal protective equipment, they are doing it in a manner that minimises the risk of any infection. These are all lessons that we learnt and things that we did not think we would need to know seven months ago.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I refer the minister to page 418 of budget paper No 2 and the third dot point under “Significant Issues Impacting the Agency”. My question relates to the COVID-19 WA recovery plan. What are the capital works priorities as part of the \$23.8 million allocated for the refurbishment of police stations?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** It is great to get a question from the member for Armadale about a police station other than Armadale Police Station that he campaigned on for quite a few years.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Do not worry; I have a question coming.

[8.50 pm]

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** Yes, I think something may be coming.

Excellent progress has been made in Armadale, and it will be a fantastic police and justice complex.

The line item the member referred to relates to the \$23.8 million that is part of our COVID-19 WA recovery plan. That is about doing small works at police stations, long overdue maintenance works and improvements at a range of police stations. The Western Australia Police Force basically highlighted its main priorities.

Those selected include, in the metropolitan area, Belmont Police Station, \$1.5 million; Kwinana Police Station, \$2 million; Mandurah Police Station, \$2 million; Palmyra Police Station, \$2 million; and Rockingham Police Station, \$1.5 million. Regional areas got the bulk of the money, I think, with Laverton Police Station getting \$1.5 million. In the great southern, they are Katanning Police Station, \$1.5 million; Narrogin Police Station, \$2 million; Wagin Police Station, \$1 million; and Williams Police Station, \$1 million. In the Kimberley, they are Derby Police Station, \$1.5 million, and Kununurra Police Station, \$0.5 million. In the south west, they are Collie Police Station, \$1.5 million, and Donnybrook Police Station, \$1 million; and in the wheatbelt, it is Merredin Police Station, \$1.5 million. Some planning and administration fees are associated with that, which I understand total \$1.8 million. That gives that total of \$23.8 million. These works are obviously fantastic for those local police stations. I have been out to a number of them and the officers are pretty excited to see those works happening at long last. This will make a real difference to the working environment of many police officers in both metro and country areas, but it also means that given that they are in the scheme of building small projects, a lot of local builders and tradies will get that work, making those improvements in the local community. Hopefully it will help create a steady stream of work in this post-COVID environment.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I am sure police officers in those areas that have some capital works are very excited. The north west has police stations in Exmouth, Cue, Onslow and Paraburdoo. Onslow Police Station, which is basically a donga on stilts, was built in 1968 or 1969; I cannot remember. Paraburdoo Police Station is very much the same. They are well and truly past their use-by dates. When will the capital works program hit the north west, given the fact that the engine room of our economy is coming from those places that I just mentioned?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I was relatively recently at Carnarvon Police Station, which is one of the best police stations in regional Western Australia, rivalled only by the courthouse next door, which is even flashier.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** We were very happy to get the money for that one.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** Again, the member has made a case for some police stations. Unfortunately, we inherited a very long list of dilapidated police stations; very little had been done in maintenance of police stations for quite some years when we came to government. Getting this money through the COVID process has really been a boost to WA Police Force. I hear what the member has said about Onslow and other places and will take that into account when the commissioner next looks at his priority list.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** I refer to page 432. Under the heading “Details of Administered Transactions”, there is a point about fines that have been derived from firearms licensing infringements. The budgeted amount was \$100 000 for the previous financial year, and the actual recoup was \$169 000. Is there an explanation about why we have had this increase in firearms licensing infringements? Is it because of poor compliance, is it because the police have had the opportunity to focus on compliance activities, or is some other factor driving them?

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**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** The Firearms Act 1973 and the Firearms Regulations 1974 enable WA Police Force to issue an infringement as an alternative option to deal with firearms offences. These relate mostly to not renewing a firearms licence within three months of the due date. These infringements are issued by WA Police Force and have been for many years under the provisions of the act. There are also the Criminal Code Amendment (Infringement Notices) Act 2011 and the Criminal Code (Infringement Notices) Regulations 2015, which enable the Western Australia Police Force to issue an infringement as an alternative option to deal with criminal conduct for nominated minor criminal offences by issuing notices rather than going through the court system. I will ask the commissioner to comment further.

**Mr C. Dawson:** In regard to the firearm regulatory system, the member might note in the budget paper he referred to a greater amount in 2018–19. As a consequence of the number of firearm thefts, particularly from regional Western Australia—but not totally that, also metro—we put in a concerted campaign and did a number of operations to overtly inspect the security cabinets and security of firearms, which resulted in a higher number of infringements being issued. As a consequence of doing those audits, many of them of course without notice, we were satisfied that that really hardened the environment so that, in both regional and metro areas, owners and licensees were required to maintain the regulatory framework for securing firearms in a locked secure manner, as is required. We did infringe excessive numbers in that particular operation, and then we audited them further. That reflects an operational proactive matter.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** The Law Reform Commission review was finally completed in 2016 and I know that the minister asked the commissioner quite some time ago about an update into the reforms that New South Wales had done. Has there been any further progress with the review of our firearms legislation; and, if so, when can we anticipate either public consultation on that sort of review, or even legislation?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I will get someone else to talk to that in a moment, but from a government perspective, I am a little disappointed that we have not been able to progress some of those reforms a little more quickly. I originally asked for some things that I thought were relatively simple and would have broad agreement, and perhaps we could act on those first. I suggested that rather than bog it down and have it too complex, I thought we could expedite matters and have a couple of tranches of firearms reform. We could put on the table those things that are simple and agreed broadly, and do those in the first tranche. We set up a firearms working group, which I will get someone to talk about in a tick, but with that firearms working group we have now got to a broad agreement about what should be in that first tranche. We are nearing a stage at which, hopefully, we will have a bill that will be able to be presented. If the bill is not able to be presented before Parliament rises this year, I would expect to give an update to the house about progress and on which elements are being progressed. There is quite strong involvement from the industry and interested parties on that firearms working group and I understand that they are all conversant with what is being proposed in that first tranche.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** Final further question —

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** Sorry, I was going to get Deputy Commissioner Blanch to add some more. I am sure the member would want to hear from him; I think he might be his constituent.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** Not quite. My borders have not been sent that far north yet! Maybe at the next election along.

**Mr C. Blanch:** Obviously, nationally, it is difficult to get agreement across the states and territories with how we categorise firearms. I will say that as a result of the first tranche work we did in building the licensing and firearms system to bring it into line with the national system—the Australian Firearms Information Network, which is managed by the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission—we have been a leader in police force jurisdictions to be able to access the right categories and details of firearms, but we are not licensing them out, to the point when other jurisdictions have come to us now, asking us to utilise the software that we have put in place. The firearms working group is working together to try to bring everyone into alignment. The movement of firearms and/or parts across the country poses significant challenges, particularly when they are categorised differently. We are seeking to have that alignment meet the requirements of the WA community and also making sure that all the states and territories are in strong alignment. Given that we are leading that work with the connectivity with the commonwealth system, I think we are in a good position to influence the other states and territories.

[9.00 pm]

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** The minister mentioned some of the relatively easier things to do. Permitting airsoft guns, with appropriate regulation, seems to be a no-brainer. Where have we got to with that? Have we progressed any further? It seems that it could be done by regulation, but, if it cannot, there appears to be pretty strong bipartisan support for it, so why can we not get it done?



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**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I am not sure whether we can describe the issue of airsoft guns as being a no-brainer, as such. I amended the Firearms Act some years ago to allow for paintball guns. We put in place a regime around that because my view was that it was being played broadly unregulated. All types of people were playing it, including lawyers, accountants, corporate groups, young people and older people. It was being played without regulation and it was felt that we could put in place an effective regime. I understand that effective regimes for paintball have been put in place in most places in Australia. However, there are some key differences between paintball and airsoft, and there are some greater hazards associated with airsoft. As I understand it, airsoft is not permitted in any Australian state, and it would also require the involvement of the commonwealth. Again, I might be wrong about what the impediment is, but I think that importing airsoft guns into Australia presents a problem. There are also some problems associated with the National Firearms Agreement. I expect that Mr Blanch or someone else might be more familiar with the issues that WA police has with it. We attempted to work with Hon Aaron Stonehouse to see whether we could come up with a regime for airsoft, but the bill that he put forward certainly had quite a number of issues for police. The projectiles that are fired from an airsoft gun are very different from the paintball projectiles, for example. I understand there is a whole raft of issues with it, including being able to import the gun and the impediments to the National Firearms Agreement and so forth. That is why no state in Australia has introduced it. The member said that it is a no-brainer. Apparently, based on the advice of police, it is not as harmless as many people portray it to be and there are significant issues with it. I think the commissioner will add more to that.

**Mr C. Dawson:** The advice I have given the minister is confirmed in the sense that, presently, airsoft guns are a prohibited import, so it would require the commonwealth to change its position on it. The difference between what are known as paintball guns and airsoft guns is that paintball guns do not look like a conventional firearm. As the member may be aware, they have a large plastic bucket, basically, that sits on top of a pipe. They cannot easily be confused with a conventional looking weapon. The real risk that I see from a public safety perspective is that the airsoft weaponry looks in every respect like a military assault weapon. Most of them are designed to look like an AK-47 cum AR-15 Ruger mini. Those sorts of weapons are very often mistaken by the community and certainly by police officers. No-one would want a police officer to have to resort to a use-of-force application when someone was waving or carrying one of those around and potentially be involved in a lethal situation because they could not determine in a high-risk situation whether it was a replica airsoft gun or a real weapon. I have significant public safety concerns about airsoft guns that I have expressed to the minister. We have, in fact, had several offences whereby they have been found in Western Australia, and that, I think, requires some very careful advice to government about the policy position. Certainly from my position on public safety, I maintain those concerns.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I am glad that the minister brought up paintball guns, because I wrote to the minister several months ago and asked a question about them in this house. I raised this very issue several years ago in this house in regard to using a paintball gun for cattle marking. Several pastoralists out there have had their application rejected to use a paintball gun to mark their calves. I want to know what the situation is concerning using what the paintball gun was developed for and was intended to be used for, which is cattle marking. Is that illegal and why are pastoralists being prevented from being able to use a tool of their trade?

**The CHAIR:** I think that is contrary to standing orders in that it is asking for a legal opinion, but the minister can work around it if she wants to.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I am happy to work around it. The member for North West Central has raised this issue with me a number of times. I think that he has raised a sensible point, and I, in turn, have raised that with the police. Maybe the commissioner can provide the member with a response.

**Mr C. Dawson:** I am familiar with the matter, having been briefed on it. A number of pastoralists and people involved in the livestock trade are, in fact, licensed. I think that some of our people in the Department of Agriculture and Food are also exempt and able to use such weapons. I would invite any applicant who has had an application refused to further submit and/or correspond with me about that. It does not mean that I will automatically ask one of my delegates to approve it, but it is an option that is available under the Firearms Act.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I have written to the Minister for Police and the response was that the minister was awaiting further advice. I have done that through the appropriate channels.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** The member has not given me the names of specific people.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I think I have, but I will give them to the minister tomorrow if I have not. It would be nice to get a resolution to this.

Indulge me, minister. I am not sure whether it is under this section, but I refer to licensing and infringements. The minister may be aware of the case of a station owner who has a range and is going through the process of getting licensing approvals. Does Western Australia Police Force have a budget for going to court and pleading its case, knowing that the police may have deeper pockets than the person who is challenging or trying to get a licence? Is

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a budget in place for the police firearms licensing department to go to court to prevent a range, for example, from operating in Carnarvon?

**The CHAIR:** That sounds like shooting blanks to me!

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I would imagine that the firearms division and the police's legal unit work to a budget. I invite the commissioner to provide further clarity for the member.

**Mr C. Dawson:** The firearms branch is called our Licensing Enforcement Division. Obviously, it has a budget. There is not a particularised line in the budget for that that I am familiar with. In fact, I doubt its budget is particularised to the State Administrative Tribunal appeal process. The division appears regularly in the tribunal because, as the member is aware, that is the appropriate administrative tribunal that deals with appeals generally. We obviously prosecute through the criminal courts as well, but in terms of the appeal mechanism, that is a cost that we apportion to our legal area as well. We generally have the State Solicitor or one of our internal counsel assist, so it is basically in a funded type of process. I certainly do not put any corporate limitation on it by saying, "You can only process X number of appeals" or "I want you to limit what it is." At law, I am required to ensure that the licensing arrangements comply with the Firearms Act and the regulations. It is really predicated on the genuine need and the genuine reason why an applicant can, firstly, make an application, and secondly, my delegates assess whether the application has merit. If there is a contest about that, generally it goes through an appeal at the State Administrative Tribunal. There is certainly no allocated budget that I have mandated, and nor would I, to say, "You can only do a certain number per year." It really is on a supply-and-demand basis.

[9.10 pm]

**The CHAIR:** I am mindful of the time. Although it is the same division, we have people from the Road Safety Commission. Members might want to consider that.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I refer to paragraph 6 under "Keeping Communities Safer Together" on page 419 in volume 2 of budget paper No 2. It is about illicit drugs. Can the minister provide an estimate of the drop in the amount of meth coming into Western Australia given the fact we have a hard border? Has there been a drop and can the minister quantify that drop in the amount of methamphetamine hitting our streets?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** With the hard border, there has been a drop in the amount of methamphetamine and other drugs coming into the community. That has been one of the bonuses. Police have learnt a lot during this period. As the member would be aware, cracking down on people who perpetrate the misery of methamphetamine in the community is a key priority for our government. That is why we committed an additional 100 officers specifically to what we termed the meth border force and the 20 other support officers. The commissioner has dedicated many more officers than that from a range of divisions to tackle the scourge of meth. He and the two deputy commissioners, and the whole force, are determined to reduce the amount of meth circulating in our community. We know that it is a driver of crime. Not like other drugs, which meant people did burglaries and theft and whatever, meth use drives violent behaviour and assaults. That is why it is important that we get on top of it. The commissioner will no doubt talk about the specifics of the impact of the hard border and what that has meant. There has been a large number of significant busts in recent times. We also know from wastewater results that the amount of meth being consumed in the community is well down.

**Mr C. Dawson:** My response to the question is that over the last several years, Western Australian police have been able to seize in excess of 2.3 tonnes of methamphetamine, mainly in the crystallised form. That is the illicit drug of most harm to Australians, particularly in Western Australia. One of the serendipitous ways, to a degree, of disrupting the meth supply has accompanied the border controls that I signed on 5 April, but it is not solely that. We have had a longstanding commitment through what the minister has already mentioned, the meth border force appropriation that was provided to us, not only with additional police but also with additional analytics. We have been very busy in building our intelligence and analytical capability. That is complemented through our numberplate recognition, our capacity to utilise more CCTV, through human source and through, to be blunt, basic detective and high-end tactical disruption of particularly the drug traffickers.

In my time as commissioner, and before that, we have never attempted to try to target drug users. We charge them because we find them in possession of it, but we focus our priority squarely at the drug trafficking top end of town. That is now being realised through very large seizures. Members would be aware that we recently seized nearly \$4 million cash out of one syndicate. There was also 14.8 kilograms of meth connected with that particular transaction. That is before the courts, but that is just a snapshot of the top end of town that we are targeting. We are also proceeding to seize a lot of assets. Why are we doing that? The direct correlation between particularly methamphetamine and substance abuse and crime is very heavily related. We know that through the drug use monitoring that we have done through the East Perth watch house, and now the Perth watch house, over 20 years. From the detainees who voluntarily submitted urinalysis, the meth detected in their system rose from in the order of about 20 per cent of

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detainees to upwards of nearly 75 per cent. That directly tells us not only the number of detainees but also the type of offences.

In this quarter, we have had a downturn of 32 per cent in all categories of crime. That was a global figure. In relation to burglaries, our most recent stats—these are now quite consistent over this recent period—have decreased by 58.3 per cent. That is 4 718 fewer burglaries in the past quarter. That was the average over the past five years. Equally, the offence of the theft of a motor vehicle has nearly halved—there were 45.6 per cent fewer offences. Stealing itself, over the five-year average, has now decreased in the last quarter to 47.8 per cent. We know that it is having a big impact. Yes, part of it is to do with the closing of the borders, but there has also been a downturn in air traffic, road traffic and maritime traffic. That does not mean we are letting off. In fact, Mr Blanch, amongst others, is leading a very concerted effort into the drug-trafficking syndicates and we are going way beyond Western Australia; we are going to the offshore high-end targeted syndicates that are sitting outside of our jurisdiction but which import drugs into Western Australia. We are not really getting much in the way of local manufacturing. It is an imported problem. We are also exporting our efforts.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** The commissioner mentioned the September quarter. Can the commissioner clarify what that means?

**Mr C. Dawson:** In the last three months, the number of burglaries, for instance, has decreased by 4 047 fewer than in the previous quarter. Over a five-year average, that equates to 4 718 fewer burglaries occurring in that three-month period. As a snapshot, we are seeing a real downturn in that. The only crime type that has gone up has been assaults. We are putting some strategies in, particularly for family violence assaults. They were not quite as easy to attribute straight. Part of the directions I signed earlier for the COVID-19 pandemic required people to stay at home. That meant some homes were less safe than others; having people domiciled as opposed to on the street. We saw less offending in certain licensed premises because they were not open, but there was a corresponding increase in some assault categories at home.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Has the commissioner found that there has been a spike in the number of drug labs in Western Australian houses or premises because the hard borders have prevented it from coming in?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** It was certainly a concern for police given the advice was that most, if not all, methamphetamine comes into WA via import. It is no secret that most of it originates from China. People look for alternatives if they cannot get hold of methamphetamine, which we know they cannot. We know that the June quarter 2020 wastewater result is the lowest it has been in five years or whatever. We know the amount of methamphetamine being consumed in the community is right down. People are looking for something. I think some people are turning to alcohol and abusing it to a greater extent. The further fear is that people will go back to the bad old days of the drug labs that the member is alluding to and home-based manufacturing and manufacturing in cars, caravans or wherever. There was a period of time a few years ago when there would be a drug lab explosion just about every week. We are not back at that. I understand—I will get the commissioner to refer to it—that there have been some cases of people trying to manufacture their own drugs but it is not across the board.

[9.20 pm]

**Mr C. Dawson:** With consent, Mr Blanch might add to what I say. Between February and September of this year, we attended a total of 38 clandestine drugs laboratories. That is almost double—in fact, just over double—the number in the same period in 2019 when we had 17. We are seeing what I might call a concerning increase even though the numbers are nowhere near what they were several years ago. When I was in charge of the Australian Crime Commission, nationally more than 700 labs were detected with Western Australia having several hundred per annum. This is well down, but we have noted that increase in the last few months and, as the minister outlined, that has pretty well halved in terms of the amount of meth that we believe is being consumed for a range of reasons. We want to maximise our efforts to maintain that downward pressure. Mr Blanch, with the minister's consent, can add to that.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I ask Deputy Commissioner Blanch to add to that.

**Mr C. Blanch:** Whilst it says it has gone from 17 to 38 this year, I put clandestine laboratories in two basic categories; the first is super labs where the equipment is quite sophisticated and generally needs to be imported or brought into WA. We have not seen any super labs here this year but we have seen what I would call the vegemite jar version of labs, which is usually downloaded off the internet with people trying their best due to the shortage of methamphetamine. I also attribute that increase to the drugs and firearms squad, which has been operating for 12 months. It has executed in excess of 500 search warrants. It is an intelligence-led squad that operates in both metro and regional WA. It was funded by the government in its methamphetamine funding. It spends all day every day executing search warrants and looking for methamphetamine in the community so a significantly higher amount of drugs is being seized and clandestine smaller labs are being found.

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**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** I refer to page 418 and the WA recovery plan and COVID-19 pandemic response. Can the minister advise how many categories of people are allowed to enter Western Australia on a the G2G passes and what those categories are?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I regard that as a policy question, not a budget question.

**Ms E. HAMILTON:** I refer the minister to pages 417 and 418 and the COVID-19 recovery plan. How is the Western Australia Police Force contributing to the state recovery plan?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** As I outlined to the member for Mount Lawley, part of the recovery plan is the \$23 million that is being spent on repairs and maintenance at a large of number of police stations. As part of that, we have put a range of other measures in place with other works that are occurring. For example, the Fremantle police complex is a significant investment of more than \$50 million. It has needed to be done since 2013 when the dilapidated station in Henderson Street was necessarily closed and relocated in temporary and very inadequate accommodation. As part of the recovery plan, I would certainly include the recruitment of 150 police officers to strengthen the front line and the \$14.5 million that I alluded to earlier to enhance the tracking and tracing capabilities that the member for North West Central asked about for multifunction police stations, which I had not referred to. Their air conditioning, heating and ventilation certainly needs replacing and that is a \$14.2 million much-needed commitment.

There is also, as I partly alluded to earlier, the \$45.5 million that covers the additional operating costs that are directly attributed to the police force's involvement with the COVID-19 pandemic, with all that additional expenditure going towards things such as accommodation, communication, the enhanced cleaning costs that I itemised before, our border control efforts as well as the impact of contract and the commitment to technology, licences and hardware. All that work is being done by the police right throughout the 2.5 million square kilometres that is Western Australia, but also at the high tech end and all that DC Dreibergs and others have been involved in developing—not just the G2G app in the first place so that we have that application-based process which, I understand, Tasmania has taken up and Queensland is looking it as an option.

In addition, we have the very innovative G2G Now app that enables facial recognition and has a GPS coordinator. A person agrees to download the app on their phone and rather than having to use police officer resources call in to see them now and again to check that they are quarantining, we know that their phone is there all the time. We can call vastly more frequently than can a police officer call in to their home and they can be phoned several times a day. Effectively, it is a bit like the iPhone facial recognition. People have to hold their live face, not a photo or a reverse photo of it, up to the screen and it has to be shown that they are at the location they say that are at. I think that app will be taken up by other jurisdictions very usefully because it is one way of ensuring that people quarantine at home. It is better for the police because it is less time consuming, less resource intensive and it is vastly better for individuals because most people do not want to quarantine in a hotel and would much rather quarantine in their own home, an Airbnb or some other accommodation. There is a big difference between being able to locate in a free-standing house or a unit and a hotel room and, of course, it gets away from the expense of hotel accommodation, which, I understand can be claustrophobic and it is also not great for the elderly or for those who are quarantining in a hotel room with kids. It is really innovative and I could not be more pleased with the way that WA Police have been really proactive and shown real leadership in coming up with these kinds of applications that are world leading.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** I refer to page 426 of budget paper No 2, volume 2, and the line item “Breath and Drug Bus Replacement”. We know that drug bus 2, as it was called, was replaced earlier this year with two smaller nimbler and modern buses. The previous bus had been in service since 2002. When are the other large breath and drug buses due for replacement, and has any allocation been made within the forward estimates for those replacements; and, if so, will they be replaced by large buses or the newer, smaller type of buses?

[9.30 pm]

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** Yes, it was innovative to get the two smaller buses. I understand that they are described as Mercedes-Benz Sprinter 516 vans. I have been to have a look at them and check them out; they are really good. In fact, they come fully kitted-out with all the equipment that people might imagine, plus more. For example, they have the national automated fingerprint identification system. In the van there is a little chair for people to sit in for a breath or a drug test. Should they test positive and further proceedings have to occur, they can put their hands on top of a small plate that looks like photocopier glass. Their fingerprints will be taken and uploaded so police can take that information and potentially identify them. The cost of the two smaller buses is significantly lower than the cost of the one big bus. It is my understanding that they are working really well. I think they are largely funded through the road trauma trust account. They are obviously much more mobile, and one bus can be deployed much more readily to country areas. I understand that we will look at getting two more of the smaller buses that have proven to be really effective. If the member wants more information about that, I am quite happy to ask Mr Warner, Mr Cameron

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or, indeed, one of the police officers to talk to the usefulness of the smaller buses. I think people have been very happy with them.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** That was not my question. My question was: when are the other big buses scheduled to be replaced?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** At this time, there is no schedule. Funding would need to be approved. I expect that police would seek funds through the road trauma trust account, so it would need to go to the Road Safety Council.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** I have a further question on the tests that are conducted on those buses. During the COVID period, some of that activity was, obviously, curtailed. That is understandable and no-one is criticising that. What ongoing changes to either the methodology of testing or the protection of officers conducting the testing have been put into place to deal with COVID-19 still being an issue in the community? Even though there is no community spread, it is still an issue.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** People will be aware that we ceased the bus operations for a period. They are not currently ceased; they were recommenced quite some time ago. That was in line with what occurred in other jurisdictions right around Australia at the peak of concerns. When the *Ruby Princess* and those other problematic issues were happening, that was deemed to be the appropriate thing to do, and we had to very quickly deploy police officers to do other options at that time, such as our intrastate borders. In any event, I do not think we would have wanted our officers to be breath-testing people using the methodology that we use for breath testing in this state. We have put additional precautions in place. Deputy Commissioner Blanch can give the member some further detail on that.

**Mr C. Blanch:** As the minister said, we ceased, through a national agreement, law enforcement breath and drug operations. When we restarted that, we engaged closely with the Department of Health on the appropriate personal protective equipment requirements. They were initially quite significant, which slowed down operations, but we were still able to do them. Over time, we have engaged with the Department of Health to make sure that we always have the right level of PPE for our officers, whether that is extra gloves or masks or things like that. That is continuing to this date. We are always making sure that we keep our officers safe.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** I know that there is a longstanding annual target of 1.8 million tests per annum. Due to the ceasing, did the Western Australia Police Force manage to reach that target in the last financial year; does it anticipate that it will meet or exceed the target this financial year; or is the need for police to be engaged in the COVID response slowing down the rate of testing?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** It has slowed down our rate of testing. From a road safety point of view, our aim is one test a year for each licensed driver. I have got a nod from the Road Safety Commission people. That is a target and best practice in Australia, so that is what we aim to do. I think we fell short of that in the last financial year thanks to COVID. We will endeavour to get as close to that as we can in this financial year.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** I am not knocking the fact that we did not get there. I am just trying to get a picture of where we are and the general impact that COVID is having.

**The Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I will ask Deputy Commissioner Blanch to give the member some more accurate figures on that, but we fell short.

**Mr C. Blanch:** We were short during this COVID year. I do not have the figures in front of me, but I have been advised by the traffic commander that we are on track for the next financial year for 1.9 million breath tests and around 40 000 drug tests.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** I refer to page 430. Under “Current Liabilities”, employee provisions have increased by 20 per cent from the budgeted figure of \$174 million to \$210 million. Under “Non-current Liabilities”, they have increased by 22 per cent. Is that a reflection of unused long service and annual leave?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I understand that under the financial position for current liabilities, there is an increase of \$28.3 million for borrowings and leaseings due to the inclusion of lease liabilities for the first time as the result of the introduction of a new leasing standard in 2019–20. Is that what the member is referring to?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** No. I was referring to the allocation for employee provisions—the current liabilities and non-current liabilities.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** Is the member talking about the increase of \$31.3 million?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Yes.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** That is \$26.4 million for the increase in actual leave liability hours to 319 392 since June 2019, which resulted from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; the decrease in interest rates by 0.66 per cent since

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June 2019; and the annual provision of \$4.2 million for the twenty-seventh pay. There is an extra fortnight in that year. It was a leap year. My birthday—29 February—apparently caused it.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I refer to page 426 of volume 2 of budget paper No 2 and the line item “Optus Stadium Deployment Centre”. It caught my eye that there is nothing in the forward estimates in 2022–23 and 2023–24. Why is that the case?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I am not sure whether the member is aware, but we utilised Optus Stadium when we had all the intrastate roadblocks in place and so forth. We are not currently using Optus Stadium in that way. I will ask the commissioner to explain further.

**Mr C. Dawson:** In respect of Optus Stadium, it was an innovative option exercised under Deputy Commissioner Dreibergs, Assistant Commissioner Steel and others. As the member may be aware, we have a police operation centre and police assistance centre in Midland which does all our computer-aided despatching and 000 call-taking. We have established the state operations command centre out at Maylands, which really is what I might describe as a nerve centre. It also has major incident breakout rooms, and that is regularly utilised in actions, such as when the Greenough Regional Prison escape occurred. At that time I attended out there and observed them standing up for a real incident happening in real time. Obviously, we do it with major events such as City of Perth Skyworks, and in response to hazards such as cyclones and bushfires, so there is surge capacity there. When the global pandemic hit us, we obviously needed hundreds of officers to stand up readily and be accommodated with all the telephony, radio infrastructure and intelligence systems, so I had to sign some directions to stop football being played at Optus Stadium. Again, it was an unintended outcome, but —

[9.40 pm]

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** So long as it was the Eagles!

**Mr C. Dawson:** I would like to comment, but I will not!

The opportunity for us to negotiate with the venue operators was, firstly, sensible, and, secondly, a good approximate distance to police headquarters and our major infrastructure. We were able to secure that under some emergency management directions through which I have the power to basically second and sequester all sorts of infrastructure. I will take this opportunity to commend the VenuesLive and VenuesWest operators, who worked very closely with police. They did not charge us for any lease costs. We had to spend some money, predominantly on cleaning, obviously for COVID, some security costs and some meal provision, but it was basically not at cost to the taxpayer in terms of leasing the venue. We were there for about three and a half months.

We have since moved our entire COVID-19 response into government-owned premises at 99 Plain Street, which is the former Department of Housing and Department of Communities building. We were able to secure our executive directorate and our assets area at a very modest transitional cost. We now have about 400 officers accommodated there. We have also been able to expand for our research capacity. We have extensive planning should there be an outbreak, whether that be in a remote community or a metropolitan community. We have the capacity to bring in our public health emergency operations centre and any other government departments that assist us. As part of our response, we have, for instance, seconded 30 Department of Transport call takers, who operate a call centre for us. These new premises mean that we will not have to take up Optus Stadium any further. It has now been addressed in the long term by the premises we have secured at 99 Plain Street.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** I thank the commissioner and the head of the Road Safety Council for waiting so patiently. I refer to page 420, paragraph 16, under “Road Safety”. Paragraph 16 refers to the fact that we need a new road safety strategy, given that Towards Zero, the road safety strategy for WA 2008–2020, is coming to an end. Given that the year is coming to an end, when can we anticipate the strategy to be released? Have there been any delays caused by COVID or any other reasons in putting together and releasing this strategy?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I thank the member for Hillarys for that question. As Madam Chair (Ms M.M. Quirk) will be aware, the new road safety strategy is something that we have consulted on pretty widely. We had a forum in her electorate, as we did in many other parts of our state. In those workshops and forums, which were run by the Road Safety Commission, we sought feedback from the community. The strategy is nearing completion, so I do not think I am giving too much away to say that Road Safety Week is coming up and I hope to launch that strategy during Road Safety Week.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** Has there been any allocation of additional funds that may or may not be required under this new strategy; and, if so, where is it in the budget? Is it in one of those ubiquitous “government projects not yet announced” or whatever? Is that funding included in that?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** The strategy itself is a framework; it is not a funding document.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** So in the strategy there will not be any additional new commitments that require funding?

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**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** The member will have to wait and see!

**Mr S.A. MILLMAN:** My question relates to the “Spending Changes” table on page 417, and specifically to the “Run-off Road Crashes Program” line item. Under the COVID-19 WA recovery plan, how will that funding benefit road safety in WA?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** The run-off road crashes program is a program that is very dear to my heart and dear to the heart of the Road Safety Council chair and everyone at the Road Safety Commission. We know that run-off road crashes in country areas account for a lot of crashes. I understand that in 2019, for example, of the 163 people who died on our roads, 63 were from regional run-off road crashes. We can see why this is a program that is very dear to our hearts. Together with what we know about having a safe systems approach to road safety, the run-off road crashes program can make a huge difference. There is research to show that investing in that program can make a huge difference in reducing fatalities and serious injuries on our roads. That is why it is a priority.

We offered to commit \$20 million and asked the commonwealth government to chip in \$80 million for that regional road safety program, to install road safety treatments that prevent run-off road crashes. We also asked for further money to accelerate the rollout of that program, because clearly if we bring those treatments forward, the benefits will start much sooner. The treatments are generally things like shoulder widening, sealing and installation of audible edge lining and audible lines in the middle of roads. The program has been going for some time, but we realised that if we could get a lot more money into the program, we could achieve the benefits much sooner.

The program originally commenced back in 2012 and it has provided road safety treatments on a priority basis. Since then, some 1 400 kilometres of road have been treated. We have lobbied the federal government from both a transport and road safety point of view. We thought that this would be an opportune time to get it, because these are not huge road-building projects that costs tens or hundreds of millions of dollars and involve big contractors; they are regional, so they provide work in regional areas and are generally lower-cost projects that can be done by local contractors. It makes sense on so many fronts in respect of providing jobs, assisting the economy and providing a dividend. When I talk about a safe systems approach to road safety, I really mean that we have championed issues such as drink driving, speeding and seat belts for a long time and we have had a big impact in those areas. People now regard it to be morally abhorrent to drink and drive, for example.

[9.50 pm]

We know that people still make mistakes. They still drive tired or can get distracted by something and they have a moment's inattention. The safe systems approach is one in which people are given a little bit of latitude and we acknowledge that people, from time to time, are going to do something wrong, be it driving tired or drifting off a little. We want those people to have the opportunity to correct that behaviour before they end up in a serious crash or as a fatality. In the federal government's recent budget, \$1.1 billion for Western Australia was allocated over three years to go towards shovel-ready projects for transport infrastructure. That included \$80 million for 2020–21, which we will match with \$20 million out of the road trauma trust account, making it \$100 million. On top of that, the commonwealth has now offered more money towards the program, so all up, about \$350 million will be expended within the next year or so. The commonwealth has put some pretty tight time frames on the expenditure of that money. From meeting with our Road Safety Commission people and talking to our Road Safety Council chair, Iain Cameron, who also has a role at the Department of Transport in his real, day job, I understand that Main Roads is very confident we will be able to meet the commonwealth's expectations. If other states do not do the works within the prescribed time frames, I understand that additional money might be available, which we would also be keen to spend. Between Minister Saffioti's Main Roads people and our Road Safety Commission people and police, we are chafing at the bit to get ahead with this program because we know the benefits that it will realise. I am told that we are in a better position than that of most of the other states to be able to roll out this work because we have been planning it for years.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I refer to page 418 and the spending changes for the infringement management reform program. Could the minister please explain the components of that program and how it will benefit the effectiveness and efficiency of people in the Western Australian community?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I thank the member for Armadale for that question. The infringement management reform program is another really important initiative. As people here all know, speed and red-light cameras play a vital role in changing driver behaviours and reducing the number of people who are killed or seriously injured on our roads. We have allocated \$13.74 million from the road trauma trust account for the infringement management reform program. These reforms will be of big benefit to community members, particularly those on lower or fixed incomes. They will hopefully be able to pay their infringements without incurring additional costs. The member will be aware that unpaid infringements are referred to the Fines Enforcement Registry, which incurs additional enforcement fees. I understand that the fees are in the order of \$110. The total amount that is collected by the registry is some \$19.7 million. It makes it much more challenging for people on low and fixed incomes to pay their fines. We estimate

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that about 20 per cent of infringements are not paid before they are referred to the Fines Enforcement Registry. We can assume only that most of those people are having some difficulty paying, so copping the extra cost on top of the fine would not help. Difficulties with payment is consistently cited as the top reason for recipients not finalising a matter and not contacting the police.

We will replace the existing, inefficient infringement processing system. That system has been in place since 2003 and it is reaching its end of life. We are going to complement that with some legislative changes that will allow for electronic infringements; the provision of digital services, including online nominations for a responsible driver; and part payments of infringements, which I have been championing for years. The government has not been able to do it because the system could not cope with part payments, so people have ended up on the Fines Enforcement Registry. We want people to be able to pay and make part payments. I doubt that there is a member of Parliament who has not had someone in their electorate office to complain about that, or complain about the fact that once the fine is one day late, it cannot be paid other than via the whole costing rigmarole with the Fines Enforcement Registry. This is a really important project in which I am very pleased to see the Road Safety Commission playing an important role.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** I refer to page 428 and the road trauma trust account revenue. The actual amount for 2019–20 came in at about \$4 million less than the figure that was budgeted. This is the money we get from speed cameras and fine enforcement generally. It is projected in the current year that the revenue will fall further, by more than \$3.5 million. What is the explanation for that? Is it because people are complying better with speed limits, not running red lights and the like? Is it because there has been an equipment failure? What is the explanation for this seemingly continual decline in the number of fines that are issued and collected?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** There is a range of explanations. The first question the member put to me was whether people are being more compliant. The simple answer is yes, particularly in keeping to the speed limit. The former Minister for Police in the Barnett government cancelled the program in which speed monitoring technology was put in place on roads in all speed zones. It was a small program that cost about \$100 000 a year. No-one is fined; they are the black strips members can see lying across the road from time to time. They are put out in speed zones of 40, 50 and 100 kilometres an hour. They monitor the speed that people are going so we can see how compliant people are with the speed limit. We have now had that information for at least 20 years in Perth, with a gap of a couple of years towards the end of the Barnett government. We have those figures and we know that people are much more compliant in sticking to the speed limit. I think that is a part of it.

One other explanation is that whenever people are concerned about their income in times of economic uncertainty, they behave more cautiously. There is evidence in lots of jurisdictions that when people are uncertain about their incomes and there are tough economic times, they are more cautious because they are more worried about getting a speeding fine. There are those changes in behaviour. Of course, we also had a period when a lot of people were off the roads. When the intrastate borders were closed, there were fewer people on the road. Anecdotally, I heard from police that the people who were on the roads in country areas were more likely to be speeding. There were quite a number of isolated examples of people going at really high speeds. However, the overall volumes of people on country roads for that period of a couple of months was incredibly low. There is lots of evidence that shows economic circumstances and people's job security are two of the many factors that feed into driver behaviour. The trend of sticking to the speed limit is probably also because of the deployment of cameras and enforcement as well as the road safety message. We know that there is a trend towards compliance. Does anyone from the Road Safety Commission want to add anything?

**Mr A. Warner:** The only other element is that we are closely monitoring the revenue trends and will be providing advice. Any adjustments we make based on our analysis of those trends will factor into the advice in the next budget process.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** I refer to outcomes and key effectiveness indicators on page 422. The last indicator is for "Effectiveness of road safety awareness campaigns". The budgeted figure is 70 per cent and the actual figure is 82 per cent. How does the department arrive at these figures? How is the effectiveness of road safety campaigns measured?

**The CHAIR:** I think the answer is 42, minister!

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** I think it is the point to my question, too!

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** Yes, the answer might be provided by one of our Road Safety Commission representatives. I think I have asked that question myself when I was sitting there.

**Mr A. Warner:** There is a bit of science involved. It is marketing best practice that any campaign or social marketing has some research evaluation to measure a number of things, including the awareness and comprehension of the



**Extract from *Hansard***

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campaign and, importantly, the impact on the intentions of the people who receive that campaign—in our case, the drivers of vehicles.

**The CHAIR:** Thank you, Mr Warner. That was a great, succinct answer. The question is that the appropriation be recommended.

**The appropriation was recommended.**

*Committee adjourned at 10.00 pm*

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