

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT (HOME BURGLARY AND OTHER OFFENCES) BILL 2014

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

Yesterday, the Liberal-National government delivered on another significant election commitment —

Mr P.C. Tinley: Preamble!

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

Mr N.W. MORTON: I will start again, if that is okay.

My question is to the Minister for Police. Yesterday, the Liberal-National government delivered on another significant election commitment with the passage of the Criminal Law Amendment (Home Burglary and Other Offences) Bill 2014. Can the minister please outline how this legislation will help deliver sentences for violent home invasions that match community expectations, and how fixing the three-strike counting will lead to more prolific offenders being taken out of the community?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Forrestfield for this question. He will no doubt immediately race to inform his constituents of the achievement of yet another Liberal-National government election commitment in the law and order space.

I was really pleased to see this legislation pass through the Legislative Council last night. As a result of this legislation, police are feeling that their work is going to be more meaningful, because we have effectively changed the counting rules for our repeat recidivist home burglars. If a person is convicted of three offences of home burglary, they will be going to jail for a mandatory minimum term of two years, rather than requiring three court appearances. Juveniles—16 and 17-year-olds—will be looking at 12 months in detention. In addition, we have increased those penalties for the very small number of violent home invaders who, instead of fleeing when they enter premises to steal from the occupant, stay and perpetrate grievous harm against the occupier of the home or indeed sexually assault or seriously assault them in other ways. The penalty for those offenders will now be a mandatory minimum term of 75 per cent of the maximum term. Those offenders who commit grievous bodily harm are looking at seven years and six months. If it is a sexual assault, it is a mandatory minimum term of 15 years, which will now be the starting point for the courts. We are really pleased to see these mandatory minimum penalties go through Parliament, notwithstanding it took us some time to get this legislation through Parliament. We had a lot of filibustering, a lot of rhetoric —

Ms M.M. Quirk: It's called democracy.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Here it comes—the inane monologue from the member for Girrawheen. Here it comes!

Mr M.P. Murray: Get on with your job!

The SPEAKER: Member for Collie-Preston, I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Those opposite went through the entire debate high-fiving their mates in the Law Society of Western Australia and saying, “We are opposing mandatory penalties.” They talked against it. We had all the rhetoric out there and the bizarre scenarios from the member for Butler, and what did they do? Did they vote against it? No, they did not vote against it. They just sat back quietly and let it pass through —

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The member for Armadale is so opposed to mandatory penalties—how did he vote?

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Armadale, I call you to order for the first time. Minister, a quick answer, through the Chair.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Armadale, I call you to order for the second time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: We are really pleased —

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

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

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: We are really pleased to have achieved another Liberal-National government election commitment. We look forward to the implementation of this law in the very near future. Potentially, this law could be operational in four weeks. I commend the members of this house who supported this legislation for not only what they said, but also how they voted.