

WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE — BUDGET

861. Mrs M.H. ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

I refer to further budget cuts that have been made to the WA Police service.

- (1) Is not the further \$2 million cut to regional WA Police budgets already resulting in afternoon shifts being cut on weekdays at a number of smaller country stations?
- (2) Are not the minister's budget cuts —

A government member interjected.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: There are some in the great southern.

The SPEAKER: Member, I call you to order.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I continue —

- (2) Are not the minister's budget cuts resulting in less overtime being made available at country stations, heavy workloads for police and a poorer service to the public?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

- (1)–(2) The member for Midland needs to articulate exactly where she says these budget cuts are coming from because there have been no budget cuts for police; they have had an increase in their budget. If the number gets higher, member for Midland —

Mrs M.H. Roberts: They've been told to cut \$2 million by 30 June. Tell the truth.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland, I call you to order for the first time!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. That is enough!

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Talking about police stations in country areas, how many did the member for Midland close on her watch?

Mrs M.H. Roberts: None. We opened nine additional ones.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I reiterate. I know that the member for Midland's financial capacity may be under scrutiny here but if the number gets bigger, it is an increase, not a cut. It was a bigger budget this year, member for Midland; there has not been a cut to the police budget. The issue the member is talking about, around shift changes and overtime, is that in regional Western Australia they are looking —

Mrs M.H. Roberts: They are cutting \$2 million; that's what they are doing.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland, I call you to order for the second time. Minister, you have one minute.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: In regional Western Australia, WA Police are focused on reform and providing an efficient police service that responds to community demands. That means there have been changes to shifts.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: Cuts.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Member for Midland, guess what, the changes are more shifts at nights and on weekends. That hardly sounds like a cut to shift allowances. There are more shifts at nights and on weekends because that is where the demand profile is saying we need to put our officers. There are no cuts; there has not been a directive to cut overtime or shift penalties. There have been some changes, but those changes are so that the police are rostered at the time the community needs them. Evidence-based policing and more efficient service is what we will continue to drive.