

## PREMIER'S STATEMENT

### *Amendment to Question*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

**MRS M.H. ROBERTS (Midland)** [2.33 pm]: It seems that this is a speech in two parts, given that I commenced the first part of it prior to the lunch break and question time. At that time I had got to the point of talking about the falling sanction rates for crime. Basically, fewer people in this state are being caught and punished for crimes. I will refer to police statistics that are publicly available on the WA Police website. In 2011–12 the sanction rate for all crimes was 23 per cent, in 2012–13 it was 21.9 per cent, and for the year to date the police website says that it is 21.6 per cent. That is a decline. But this is not a sudden thing, as I will demonstrate with the graphs I have prepared. The sanction rate has been falling steadily since 2008–09, when it peaked. The number of crimes against the person has gone up in raw terms by 11 per cent this year. Even when we account for population growth, that is still an increase. I note that the Premier made reference to population growth-related figures. The population in Western Australia has increased over the past two years by less than six per cent—there was an increase of 3.3 per cent last year and an increase of two-point-something per cent the year before. The figure for crimes against the person has gone up by a whopping 11 per cent. There has been double the increase in crimes against the person than the increase in population.

I also want to quote some figures about what has happened in the metropolitan area, because those figures are worse than the statewide figures. I point out that the clearance rate on all offences is currently 18.4 per cent, so nearly five out of six offences currently go unpunished. I would like to know in what world these figures represent a decrease in crime. Quite simply, they do not. This motion specifically refers to the last two years. I note that when the Premier was re-elected in 2013 he said that this was a new government and that we should draw a line in the sand.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr N.W. Morton)**: Sorry, member, can I just interrupt. Members, there are a few private conversations happening in the chamber that are making it difficult for Hansard to record the contribution of the member for Midland, so please take them outside or desist.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS**: If we draw that line in the sand and look at the performance of this Barnett government over the last two years in the area of community safety, we see that standards have declined dramatically. The level of overall crime has been going up and up. The Minister for Police can put whatever gloss on it she likes but I have read out the raw figures. The minister perhaps needs to do some of her own homework and look at the police website. If she does, she will see that the total number of crimes went up between 2011 and 2012 and now to 2013. She will also see a dramatic decline in sanction rates. Prior to about 2010, the term “clearance rates” was used, but they have mucked around with the definitions. Let us not bother about that; let us just talk about the last two years, for which the terminology and the statistics have been consistent. When one does not look at the clearance rates from the years before but looks just at the sanction rates, one can see a further decline.

Members may remember an article in *The Sunday Times*, which I have just flashed up on my iPad, by Anthony DeCeglie in October 2012. The article is headed “Police caught short”, with the subheading “50% of crimes in WA are never solved”. The article states —

Police settled 54 per cent of the 32,091 crimes committed against people over the past year—

I just remind the minister that in 2013 there were 35 908 crimes—an 11 per cent increase on the 2012 figure. The number of crimes has gone up—we now have more than 35 000 crimes a year rather than the 32 000 that were committed in 2012. The police settled 54 per cent of those crimes back then, which is well below the 60 per cent target. I note that the police still maintain a 60 per cent target, which they have failed to achieve. I note also that 67 per cent of crimes were settled in 2009. What did the minister say? She told *The Sunday Times* —

“I intend to get to the bottom of why the sanction rate has dropped by discussing this issue with WA Police,”

She told that to *The Sunday Times*, just as she told the house today that she is going to discuss domestic violence with the Commissioner of Police. This government has been in power for six years and she is finally going to discuss domestic violence with the Commissioner of Police! One would think that 54 per cent is a terrible figure—the worst on record for years. The minister said she would discuss why that was so. A further article on this issue on the same date states —

Police Minister Liza Harvey said she would grill police chiefs —

They must have been quaking in their boots —

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on why so many crimes were going unpunished.

We would have to wonder! Guess what the situation is now, minister; the so-called sanction rate is down to about 45 per cent. Fifty-four per cent was not acceptable then. Back in 2008–09 there was a significantly higher solve rate, but now it is a pathetic 45 per cent solve rate for crimes against the person—the very crimes that the community is most concerned about. To think that they can blithely stand up there and attest that the community is now safer under Premier Barnett and this minister when the statistics for the last two years, whether we account for population growth or not, do not account for the massive decline in community safety in this state. Without question, Western Australians are now less safe than they were two years ago. Somebody is becoming the victim of a crime against the person every 15 minutes in this state.

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** Shame.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I will say shame. I refer again to my charts showing the sanction rate for Western Australia. The blue line shows crimes against the person and the orangey–brown line shows the crimes against property. Both are in decline. From 2007–08, the figures are 82.9 to 86 to 64 to 59 per cent. Since the period of the statistical analysis changes, in about 2010—they are still aiming for 60 per cent—the figure was 59.2 per cent sanction rate, then it went to 54.2, to 49.3 and it now stands at 45.9 per cent. More than half the crimes against the person do not get a satisfactory resolution. I say shame. We wonder why this is the case. We are told we have more police and we are told the police budget has not been cut. If we look at the facts, we can see there has been the same so-called dividends—the same kind of Orwellian euphemisms—taken from the police department as there have been from other departments because of this government’s policy of pursuing pet projects and its failed financial management.

In the last couple of minutes I want to specifically talk about the east metropolitan district where the minister tells me I have not lost officers. The minister should look at her answer on the *Hansard* record. The answer to question on notice 1626 dated Monday, 3 February 2014 states that the actual strength for the east metropolitan district in 2009 was 267; in 2010, 244; in 2011, 212; in 2012, 240; and in 2013, 247. There are now 20 fewer officers than there were in 2009. There was a dip, which the minister explains was because of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2011 when officers were taken out. I understand that. When we compare the figure for 2009, in the minister’s own answer, with that of 2013, we see that the figure went from a high of 267 down to 247 in actual strength. Planned strength went from 251 to 241. That is a decline. If we take population growth into account, that decline is of an even greater percentage. The minister might say that the auxiliary officer positions have been created, so maybe the government is doing well there. The information in this answer states that in October last year it was planned to have four auxiliary officers. This will interest you, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr N.W. Morton): there was one. The minister gave numbers for planned detectives and planned forensic staff.

**MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Police)** [2.54 pm]: I would like to respond to the accusations that have been hurled about by the member for Midland. Of course, the overall verified crime rate in Western Australia has gone up; so has the population. The Premier referred to the overall crime rate in the state being down by 18 per cent between 2007–08 and the most recent statistics for 2012–13 because in the context of population growth there has been a decline of 18 per cent for overall verified offences per 100 000 people. The total selected reported offences per 100 000 —

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you, member.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** Have you looked on the website?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** I would like to respond. We are having a debate at the moment about terminology, so I will compare apples with apples.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Midland! I would like to hear the minister in silence, thank you.

Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** I have already stood once, member for Midland and member for West Swan. I have asked to hear the Minister for Police in silence. I caution you, and will call you to order if you engage in interjections.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Sometimes comments are made in this house that are not necessarily worthy of a response.

**Extract from Hansard**

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The total selected reported offences per 100 000 persons—this is the figure that we are talking about—have dropped by 18 per cent from 2007–08 to 2012–13. In 2007–08, there was an average of 9 000 —

*Point of Order*

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** The motion refers to the community being less safe over the last two years so perhaps the minister would like to address the motion.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr N.W. Morton):** Thank you, I take the point of order and I think the comments from the minister are relevant to the amendment.

*Debate Resumed*

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker, I am addressing issues raised in the debate.

In 2007–08, there were 9 676.7 total selected reported offences per 100 000 people in Western Australia and in 2012–13, there were 7 907.7 per 100 000. That represents a decline of 18 per cent in total selected reported offences per 100 000 people in Western Australia. That is a good result. There has been an increase in population and an 18 per cent reduction in total selected reported offences over the five years of this government. Non-domestic assault offences have dropped by 15 per cent over the same period. Total selected reported offences have dropped by five per cent over the same period. Here in Western Australia, we spend on average \$479 per resident on our policing services compared with a national average of \$416 per resident. The policing model in Western Australia changes and from time to time we change the way we measure the activity of police—both our effectiveness and the demand for their services.

Members heard me refer earlier to the changes in the key performance indicators that I am putting in place for the measurement of domestic violence. Similarly, some changes were made a couple of years ago in Western Australia for the clearance and sanction rates. It is important that we get the difference between these two areas. The clearance rate is the number of reported offences when an investigation outcome was recorded, including insufficient evidence—namely, cases for which there was never going to be enough evidence to close the file or find an offender. Police stopped using this method in 2010–11 because sanction rates were considered to be more accurate. The sanction rates are the number of verified offences when an investigation outcome has been recorded of an offender being apprehended or processed—such as arrest, summons, caution, referral to a juvenile justice team—or when, for some reason, police investigations cannot be continued, such as the withdrawal of a complaint. The number of these sanctioned offences is expressed as a percentage of the number of verified offences reported during the same period. The sanction rates have dropped but this is not necessarily a bad thing due to some of the legislative framework under which police now operate.

Changes have been made to the Evidence Act 1906, the Criminal Investigation Act 2006 and the Criminal Procedure Act 2004. Those legislative changes have enhanced the transparency and accountability of police work. This means that the time taken for police to complete an investigation has increased. There have also been changes to domestic violence reporting requirements that have resulted in an increase in the number of offences that are being recorded, adversely affecting the sanction rate. Since the move to the sanction rate model, there has been an increase in the quality of evidence provided to the courts, which is very important for government overall because if we can improve the percentage of guilty pleas and convictions, we will reduce the cost of running the justice system in Western Australia. The changes in the reporting model and the increase in the quality of evidence provided to the courts have resulted in an improvement in the percentage of guilty pleas and convictions. Although the sanction rate is one of the measures of police accountability and the effectiveness of police work in this state, it cannot be taken on its own outside the context of the range of other measures of police activity—the effectiveness of police, the demand for police services and the response provided to the community when they call for the assistance of police. Members opposite need to look at all these things in context, rather than quoting individual statistics out of context, particularly alarming accusations that the crime rate in Western Australia is on the rise disproportionate to population growth. This is not true. Crime rates in Western Australia have decreased by 18 per cent in the context of population growth. That means this community is safer. The government will continue to drive down crime rates.

The Liberal–National government has made a commitment to improve the safety of our community. That is why the government is bringing new legislation to this place that will increase penalties for violent home invasions and making changes to the counting rules for the three-strikes burglary legislation, which I expect to bring to Parliament in the near future. The government will introduce new offences for hooning to allow police to apply to the courts to confiscate a motor vehicle for the first hooning offence, if it is in a built-up area and is particularly dangerous. These are the things that this government is doing to improve community safety. In addition, it will back up this action by resourcing police appropriately, ensuring that programs such as Frontline 2020 can improve the workplaces of police so they can do their work more effectively in the community rather

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than be tied behind desks unnecessarily in the process. These are the things the government has done. It has introduced mandatory penalties for offenders who assault police officers and cause them serious harm. Those people are now going to jail for a minimum period of six months. All these things are part of the holistic approach of this government to bring back community safety in Western Australia and rein in the offending that has been occurring in the community and to continue to drive down the incidence of offences against people and property in the community, consistent with the wishes of those who elected us so resoundingly in March 2013.

**MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro)** [3.03 pm]: I rise to address the amendment —

and that we regretfully note that over the last two years Western Australia has become a less safe place to live.

At the outset I must observe that that was an incredibly poor contribution by the Minister for Police. The minister spoke for about six minutes! This is a serious issue. It is undoubtedly and undeniably —

Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr N.W. Morton)**: Member for Midland, I have already cautioned you that I will call you to order. I caution you once more that if you continue like this, I will call you to order. That will be your second call today. The member for Warnbro has the call and I expect to hear him in silence.

**Mr P. PAPALIA**: It is undoubtedly the truth that Western Australians feel far less safe now than they did six years ago. That is a fact. Members should consider that we are seeing, shamefully on a very regular basis now, incredibly violent crimes done by very young people in our state. It was not the case some years ago that this occurred so regularly. We see murders involving gangs of 14 year olds! Violent crime is increasing and crime against the individual is going up. That is the measure the minister wants to be concerned about. The minister's response is that the methodology for measuring crime statistics changes from time to time, to quote the minister. Using methodology to adjust crime statistics so that the outcome is beneficial to the government is at the heart of the problem. Western Australia needs an independent authority like the New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research to provide real insight into what is going on with crime and punishment in Western Australia. We need to take it out of the hands of the Barnett government, which is completely incompetent and incapable of telling the truth, and provide an opportunity for independent academics to analyse what is happening in crime, who is committing it, where it is being committed and what works in challenging and confronting it. That is what we need so that we can believe statistics, otherwise the minister will adjust the methodology every couple of years so that no-one can compare like with like to see whether crime is increasing or decreasing. The truth is that it does not matter what statistics the minister and the Commissioner of Police roll out when they attend one of their forums, and I note they are avoiding Warnbro.

**Mrs L.M. Harvey**: We had one in Mandurah.

**Mr P. PAPALIA**: I wrote to the minister asking her specifically to come to the electorate of Warnbro, and the minister knows why! The minister avoided doing that. That aside, the minister cannot keep going to these forums and rolling out statistics that say that the crime rate per 100 000 or whatever is going down. That does not satisfy people. They live the experience. They know that they do not feel safer. They see reports in the media of serious and violent offenders escaping custody. These offenders have committed far more serious crimes and warrant far more security than the conditions in the facilities in which they are incarcerated. They are escaping from this government's custody.

**Mrs L.M. Harvey**: So you had no escapes while you were in government!

**Mr P. PAPALIA**: I am talking about the last 12 months, minister.

**Mrs L.M. Harvey**: You do not want to talk about when you were in charge!

**Mr P. PAPALIA**: I was not in charge, ever. I would love to have been in charge, but I was not. The minister cannot deny that people who are serious criminals are finding their way into minimum security prisons and lower-security environments and are escaping, and this government is covering up the reasons behind this. This government is covering up the details of escapes so that we cannot find out who is responsible. The government is covering up the details of how these people are getting into these environments in the first place. The minister does this by using statistics and refusing to provide information. If it has anything to do with Serco, it is verboten. It is off limits and there is no access, because it is commercial-in-confidence. That is the government's fallback position. If it is not commercial-in-confidence, it is cabinet-in-confidence. Unless we get details of information that is stamped cabinet-in-confidence—even though it should not be—we do not really know what is going on. This government is more focused on secrecy and cover-up than it is on its responsibility.

**Mrs L.M. Harvey**: What a load of rubbish! It is not.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** Minister, it is obvious that the government spends more time defending its reasons for not releasing information than answering questions that are of interest to the entire state. For instance, what do we know about the Geraldton escape of a violent rapist, whose case, I assume, was a contributing factor to the legislation that has been drafted for mandatory sentencing for violent assaults during burglaries? I assume this is an actual case that contributed to the arguments the minister will refer to. But maybe the minister will not, because even though the offender was banged up for 11 years as a consequence of that crime—whether that is adequate is debatable, and we can say that it is not—the government must be pretty embarrassed about the way he was looked after and allowed to escape. It was not adequate that he was allowed to go to a medium-security prison. One month after his sentencing as a maximum-security prisoner, he was allowed to go to a medium-security prison in the regions, with all the susceptibility to escape and the other consequences entailed in that action. He was allowed to do that by this government. In addition, he was given into the custody of Serco Australia. We do not know anything about the manner of that escape. We do not know anything about the inability of Serco to provide its contracted services right across the fleet. There is no guarantee that the failure to maintain monitoring and security equipment was not replicated in the entire fleet under Serco's responsibility for the last two years, going on three years. There is no guarantee that that was not the case. The Minister for Police would not know, unless she has seen the report that I and no member of the Western Australian public have seen. The Minister for Corrective Services does not even appear to know and he has already read the report. The government is more intent on defending failure and covering up the relationship with Serco, and its associated failures, than it is on telling the truth to Western Australians.

I made a speech the other night about policing in my electorate. This matter is very specific to this amendment. It is very specific to the minister. It is a responsibility that the minister has to the citizens of Singleton in my electorate and other citizens in the surrounding suburbs. In the course of the election campaign, the minister made a personal visit, in the company of the Liberal Party candidate for the seat of Warnbro and the member for South Metropolitan Region Hon Phil Edman, to Rockingham; she did not come to the electorate. She met with representatives from the residents associations of Singleton, Golden Bay and Secret Harbour, all of whom said to the minister that they believed they needed a police station halfway between Rockingham and Mandurah. The minister assured them that they did not. She said, "No; that is not what you require. What you require is policing; you require a response. I would prefer to see a response from the police." I have to tell the minister that it has failed. It is an abject failure.

**Mrs L.M. Harvey:** We have 50 additional regional operations group members down there now to help.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** They were not there on 24 January and they were not there on the Australia Day long weekend. It is funny how residents in Peppermint Grove manage to get a response. It is funny how arrests were made of juveniles showing riotous behaviour in Peppermint Grove. People were arrested and there was a consequence in the courts. The people of Singleton did not get that; they got an out-of-control party. The minister was only yesterday lauding the government's response to out-of-control parties. There was an out-of-control party in Singleton that the culprits of the assaults committed in Singleton attended only a few hours later. It was responded to by the police, but they did not arrest anybody. They did not take anyone's name; they just let them go and moved them on. There was no consequence for those individuals. Does the minister know what those individuals did? They wandered down the streets and found their way to the unsuspecting and vulnerable members of the Singleton Social Club. They arrived at the community centre at about 11 o'clock that night, as the social club members were closing up after a quiet sundowner. A small group was surrounded by 30 or 40 violent, abusive and aggressive youths, with some individuals aged up to about 21 or 22. They were provoked and they did not respond. They were abused and they did not respond. They were actually violently assaulted and they did not respond. They were eventually forced inside the hall to take shelter from the assault and they barred the doors. The individuals outside, in a drunken and drug-addled frenzy, commenced ripping up bricks and pavers and smashing the windows and glass doors of that building. They screamed obscenities, abuse and threats at the small group inside. The group was then, amazingly, forced to take shelter in another room further inside the building because these wild individuals were so pumped on whatever they had taken that they smashed their way through the security glass and into the hall. Then they commenced smashing the roller door and the door there, forcing the people inside to believe that they were in danger of losing their lives. The men in the group began to look about themselves for makeshift weapons in the form of fire extinguishers and anything else they could grab and the women huddled in the corner, fearful for their lives. I know that because I have talked to them. It was appalling. These are people from the community the minister spoke to just prior to the election. She told the community that it did not need a police station; it needed a police response.

When the police eventually got there, after numerous appalling encounters with 000 and 131 444 operators, who treated these people in a pretty bad and, in some cases, I think, appalling manner, there was an opportunity at that stage to arrest some of the individuals who had committed the crime, but it was not taken. I said in my

speech the other night that I do not normally criticise the police. I make it a practice not to. I respect and admire them for what they do. It is a difficult job. I have family members who have been in policing long term and also many friends associated with policing, so I do not go out of my way to criticise the police. But their response on this night was not good. They had an opportunity to make arrests and they did not. They had an opportunity to at least garner some information about the individuals' identities and they did not. It was missed. As a consequence, when they sought out the individuals, who were recognised through social media, at a later date, they were confronted with the problem of the families of the individuals giving them alibis for the evening. It was impossible, and it remains impossible as I understand it, to prove that these violent offenders were out at that time of night. The opportunity to do something about it was missed.

The minister spoke earlier about platitudes. I made mention of platitudes in my speech the other night. The people in the communities between Rockingham and Mandurah are sick of platitudes. They do not want to hear from the minister or Commissioner O'Callaghan any more assurances about statistics. They feel unsafe under this government. They are part of a population base of between 50 000 and 60 000 people residing in the northern suburbs of Mandurah and the southern and eastern suburbs of Rockingham who do not have access to a local police station. I asked a simple question of Commissioner O'Callaghan when he had his forum prior to the minister's forum a couple of years ago in Rockingham. I asked him what population number determines the suitability for a police hub. I do not agree with it, but I concede that the commissioner has a policy of supporting police hubs. I asked him how many people an area must have before it is worthy of getting a police hub, and the police commissioner said that there is no number; there is no ratio. I find that incredibly difficult to believe. I would expect that a modern police service, such as the one in Western Australia, would use demographics, criminality and all manner of knowledge to determine when and where police resources are placed.

**Mrs L.M. Harvey:** We analyse where the police resources go in response to where the demand is. We look at the calls for police assistance and then that is analysed according to the ability of police to respond to those calls from the community. When that falls out of acceptable parameters, we look at additional resources, which does not always mean investment in a police station.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I let the minister have her interjection, but I will continue. I understand that the government's response will be the same response it has been giving for the last six years. I understand that, minister. I suggest to the minister that the police need to expand the criteria by which they determine whether more on-the-ground policing is required to include such other measures as the socioeconomic index, the number of people entering the prison system from a particular location and the Australian Early Development Index, which index determines the likelihood of failure in education and subsequently entering into criminal behaviour, with the ultimate result of increasing criminality throughout their lives and all the costs associated with that. The AEDI indicates that Warnbro is the worst area in the state.

Those sorts of measures need to be incorporated if we are going to get really serious. If we are going to be much more sophisticated about how we provide resources, we need to expand beyond response times and offence rates. I am asking where people live when they go into prison and where they go back to, because that information could indicate that they might not be committing the crime where they live and there might be other crimes for which they have not been arrested and sentenced. There may be other consequences for them being in those locations. A range of measures should be taken into account when we analyse where we put resources. I would argue that one of those measures might be the massive population expansion in a short time without additional resources in the southern and eastern suburbs of Rockingham and the northern suburbs of Mandurah, and in the northern suburbs of Perth in the member for Wanneroo's electorate. The rapidity of that growth and the nature of a community with no historical centre mean that perhaps they lack some of the historical support mechanisms that may be in a more mature suburb. Those measures may also need to be taken into account.

I will keep going as I am running out of time. For seven years I have been saying we need a police station on the ground between Rockingham and Mandurah and it does not cut the mustard to continually say that we have a south east metro response group. The minister knows that is a bit dodgy anyway because post the election it has been revealed that the group is the reinstatement of the southern suburbs police rail unit, which was taken up to Perth under this government in the first place. That means that we do not have the extra 80 or so police officers the minister claims. All the government has done is to relocate the southern suburbs rail line police. That means that they are not additional resources. We need additional resources beyond what is there. We need capacity and presence. I cannot for the life of me understand why the minister insists on this argument that somehow having police based up in Rockingham and down in Mandurah will get a better service for the people who live in the middle. It is a geographical problem. It does not matter how responsible or well-minded the police command is in either of those locations—they are good people—they cannot do it, because a natural consequence of the geography is that those police will go to and from those locations close to their police stations. If it is a debate in their minds about which response they should go to and if the crimes are like for like and have the same urgency,

which one do members think they will go to? They will go to the one that means they do not lose half an hour in transit time. It is a natural consequence of what is going on.

**Mrs L.M. Harvey** interjected.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I have two minutes. I will not let the minister interject. Statistics do not demonstrate or reflect the problem; in the end, it is people who reflect the problem. The minister knows that people in Singleton right now are deeply aggrieved with this government, and the minister personally, over the false assurances she gave about their policing. They feel let down and personally aggrieved and I think they have good reason. The minister needs to acknowledge that people in Western Australia do not feel safer under this government. In fact, they feel far less safe than they did only a few years ago. Since the Liberal Party took office, we have lost control of law and order in Western Australia. There is no greater example of that than what happened in Singleton on the Australia Day long weekend. It is appalling.

**MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler)** [3.25 pm]: I once again rise within 24 hours to address the hollow rhetoric of the government, mouthed on this occasion by the honourable Minister for Police who said that since the Liberal–National government came to power, it has been tough on crime. Let us examine that against the instances that the public have witnessed. As I said yesterday, some two years ago this Parliament passed anti-association laws. What has happened since then? The minister organised the police to be tour guides for the Rebels Motorcycle Club’s national motorcycle run. No wonder she runs from the chamber when the truth comes out. The government said it would crack down on outlaw motorcycle gangs and it would be tough on crime. She has repeated it again today. She has to be called for the dunce that she is. What happened under her ministerial watch? The Rebels said they would come from around Australia and ride around Western Australia. They must have been scared because the government said it would be tough on outlaw motorcycle gangs!

What happened under the Minister for Police’s watch? A huge police detail went out to Eucla on our border, not to say, “Naff off! Get out of town! You’re not coming here.” Instead, they said, “Boys, we will guide you. We will show you the way. Look, here is the Norseman roadhouse.” We saw the Norseman roadhouse swarming with bikies and the police sitting around watching them, not saying, “Wrong way; go back!” or “Leave town or we’ll get ya!” They escorted them around Western Australia at the taxpayers’ expense. It is just breathtaking. Do members think this would happen in Victoria? We saw on Fox News yesterday the police, not with anti-association laws but with determination and careful planning, execute simultaneous raids on the Mongols throughout Victoria. They said, “Be on notice; this is coming again and again. We will get you.” They did not go out chasing the headline. No, the Victorian police went out chasing the bikies and they are driving them out the same as the police are doing in New South Wales—not acting as tour guides! To approve this expense is a terrible message for this cabinet, led by Premier Barnett, to send to the public of Western Australia. The last time we saw a contingent of police this big go out to guide people around was when they went up to Noonkanbah to get the oil drilling rigs through in the 1980s. This was astounding given the rhetoric in this Parliament that this government would crack down on bikies.

Although you, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr N.W. Morton), were not then in Parliament, you should remember from the newspapers when the Premier said, “Elect me and we will crack down on prostitution. We will bring laws into this state that keep brothels away from schools and homes.” What has the Premier done? He has legalised prostitution because the Commissioner of Police said there are no laws that we can prosecute under at the moment. We need some laws to control prostitution and to drive it away from the proximity of houses, churches and schools. However, the Premier has legalised it by inaction. He will not bring in any laws. He went around beating his chest saying that his government would bring in laws and would put out maps. He said we would not have a brothel within miles of a school or a church or a home. A female constituent told me a brothel started right next door to her and her child. When she had her daughter in bed with her one night, drunks banged on her door in Quinns Rocks because they got the wrong house; the brothel was next door. When she went to Clarkson Police Station and sought assistance, the police said they do not prosecute prostitutes. If we tell the police that there has been a breaking and entering, they come around. But there is nothing they can do about the sex trade. The Premier legalised it by his inaction and gutlessness. He will not bring prostitution before this Parliament. He has made that clear. He has had five years to do it.

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** He hasn’t got the numbers in the party to do it.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** He has the numbers; his team outvotes us! He just has not got the guts to ram it through his party room and serve the people of Western Australia, because he thinks he is going to divide his party. Because of the Premier’s own self-interest and his own reputation within the party room, he is too gutless to bring prostitution laws before the Legislative Assembly. He does not know which way any of these members are going to vote. He has no idea. He went out and misled the public. Three years ago I stood outside a brothel in Beaufort Street, which was situated next to a block of state housing flats, and said, “Here is the brothel and here are the

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families who are trying to bring up their children next to the brothel.” The police commissioner said, “I’ve got no laws to enforce. I’ve got no laws to take any action.” I said, “The government is full of phonies.” Then the Premier’s former Attorney General came in here like slick Harry, held up a photo of me and said, “We’ll see who’s the phoney, member for Mindarie”, as I was then, that is how long ago it was. He said, “We’ll see who’s the phoney, member for Mindarie. When I bring in the laws and a division is called, I’ll see which way you vote.” Boy, I was scared; the spotlight was going to be on us!

The Liberal Party never brought prostitution laws into this house. The police minister says, “We’re going to be tough on crime, and we’re tough.” This is what she said this afternoon. Everyone knows that organised crime is behind prostitution and that bikies run brothels. The government does not do anything about the bikies and then it does not do anything about their major business—prostitution. The government has the gall to come in here and say, “Look at these statistics; we’re tough on crime”! Mandatory sentencing laws were passed for anyone who assaults a police officer and injures them. The government was going to publish a review of these laws—it never did. Yes, assaults on public officers went down in numbers, but at the same time the number of assaults on public officers in prescribed circumstances was going down. Within there—the subgroup—assaults on police officers went up. That is why the police union sent delegates out to our offices. I was visited by the vice president of the police union. He came all the way out to Clarkson with his report of April 2013, which cited the Premier’s words. I will go back to them again. The conclusion of the police union’s report states —

To make a public statement that —

As the honourable Premier said —

“a very strong message” has been sent by the Government to the community, by way of a legislation that promises to send those to jail who “assault and cause bodily harm to a Police Officer ... —

I remember the Premier saying this —

No ifs, ands or buts”, —

The police union says —

is an insult to the Police Officers who have experienced life-altering assaults and then watched as justice was not served.

I mentioned that yesterday, but on that occasion I did not have time within my speech in response to actually turn to the details. Mr Acting Speaker (Mr N.W. Morton), may I now? I start at page 27 of the report citing the case of Senior Constable Jones. Note 60 states that the officer’s name has been changed for the officer’s protection, so “Senior Constables Jones” is a nom de plume. The report states —

In July 2011, Senior Constable Jones attended a domestic violence incident —

This is what the police minister was talking about: “We’re cracking down on domestic violence” —

at a private residence where it appeared a female had been seriously assaulted by her partner. Upon entering the household to obtain more details from the POI, —

That is, person of interest —

lost control, yelling and lunging at Senior Constable Jones. Senior Constable Jones deployed his Taser but the prongs only connected with the accused’s jacket, not his body. The accused punched Senior Constable Jones to the face, —

I digress for a moment: this is what the Premier said would result in certain imprisonment —

who then toppled backwards onto a DVD player which was placed on top of a bed. The accused fell on top of Senior Constable Jones and as he continued to punch the Officer, the Taser continued to cycle. A struggle ensued so Senior Constable Jones’ partner deployed her Taser and when the offender was finally subdued, he said to Senior Constable Jones, “If that is your blood, it looks like I won both of those rounds”.

Not only did Senior Constable Jones suffer bruising, cuts and swelling to his face, —

This is what the Premier said would result in mandatory imprisonment —

but he sustained a back injury and suffered muscle strain to his lower back that required anti-inflammatory medication and physiotherapy. Senior Constable Jones was referred to a psychiatrist and has described that since the incident, he has “drank alcohol in excess” and finds himself “short-tempered and angry”. Senior Constable Jones relocated “to a country location to continue [his] career, but finds [himself] completely cautious when attending jobs of a domestic nature”. He also notes:

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This is the constable —

“I regularly ask the question ‘what if’, as I believe if my partner at the time ... had not responded the way she did, I was going to suffer serious and probably life threatening injuries from the attack on my person”.

Though Senior Constable Jones and the IO wished to pursue the Assault Public Officer (Prescribed Circumstances) charge, —

Because that is what the Premier said would result in imprisonment —

they were advised by an Inspector at Prosecuting ... that the charge was being downgraded to Assault Public Officer on the basis that Prosecuting were “only approving the prescribed circumstances in cases that they consider to be of a more serious nature, i.e. more serious injuries”. Senior Constable Jones was advised by his IO that the Inspector and Mr Meertens did not want to “water down the legislation”.

Whatever that means. Here we have an officer who is seriously injured and under this police minister’s watch, despite what the Premier has promised this Parliament, no-one goes to jail at all. The report continues —

The sentencing outcome was a “New Supervision Order: 18 months Program”—the offender did not do any jail time and will have now completed his sentence. Senior Constable Jones has described feeling frustrated, angry and distressed ...

Constable Foy attended an assault incident which occurred at a cinema in July 2012. When she approached the accused, who was shouting obscenities, the accused became volatile and appeared ready to lunge at Constable Foy’s partner. After failed attempts to calm down the accused, Constable Foy reached for her handcuffs to arrest the accused for disorderly behaviour but before she could do so, the accused tore at Constable Foy’s hand, extending the thumb and hand back far beyond normal extension. Constable Foy managed to place handcuffs on the accused, who not only continued to swear and scream but began kicking out at the Officers. The Officers conveyed the accused back to the Police station and later that night, Constable Foy attended hospital to have her hand medically assessed as she was in great pain and could not extend it or move it normally.

Constable Foy also attended her local GP, who ordered an X-ray. Constable Foy had her hand plastered and it was recommended that she wear a thumb splint, which she declined because she was concerned about the impact it would have on her work ... Constable Foy had to take two weeks off work due to the pain and immobility of her injury and worked light duties ...

The accused was charged with Obstruct Public Officer as Constable Foy was advised by a superior that this charge was easier to prove than an Assault Public Officer (Prescribed Circumstances). At no point during the laying of charges was Constable Foy consulted by anyone at Prosecuting—she did not receive emails, a recommendation for a point of contact and is still unsure about the progress of the accused’s charges.

I read from page 31 —

Constable Saunders was completing a course at the WA Police Academy in March 2011 when she was assaulted. She was residing at the Academy as she had travelled from regional WA to attend this course. One evening Constable Saunders was disturbed by loud aggressive voices outside her room and when she stepped out to investigate, was confronted by a male and female. The male was arguing with a security guard and was behaving in an intimidatory manner. Constable Saunders asked the couple to leave after stating she was a Police Officer.

Without warning, the accused male charged at Constable Saunders —

Listen to this one, Premier —

and punched her hard in the face, towards her right jaw. Constable Saunders staggered to the ground but was able to right herself. She attempted to grab at the accused to arrest him, but the accused punched her again to the face.

One would not believe that this is the Police Academy. The report continues —

Constable Saunders fell to the ground where she lay as the accused ran away. Each time that the accused punched Constable Saunders, he screamed, “I don’t give a fuck who you are, you fucking bitch”.

As a result of the assault, Constable Saunders sustained a broken tooth and a cut and swollen mouth that had bled profusely on the night of the incident. Constable Saunders suffered intense pain in her face,

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jaw and neck for weeks after the incident. She attended both a doctor and a dentist after the incident and was referred for scans and X-rays as it was suspected that Constable Saunders had a fractured jaw. Constable Saunders has since had a cap placed on her tooth.

This is the sort of incident that the Premier said would send someone to jail, no ifs and no buts. The report continues —

In an email to the Union dated 4 February 2013, Constable Saunders noted the following:

“...I believe that the vicious assault on me by [the offender] has greatly affected my Policing career. I was a confident capable Police Officer prior to the assault; I believe I have become less confident in dealing [with] members of the public and at times felt quite scared and unsure as a direct result of [the offender’s] actions”.

Constable Saunders noted in a more recent email that:

“One of the Police Officers who was at the incident saw the punch to my face from the offender, he said it was one of the hardest punches he had ever seen and the noise of my head hitting the ground was incredible. That [statement made by the Officer] is something I think of quite often...”

What happened? This offender should go to jail, no ifs, no buts. Continuing —

The offender was eventually charged with several offences, including Assault Public Officer, but not in prescribed circumstances. The offender pleaded guilty to the assault charge and was fined \$3,000 plus court costs. When queried, Constable Saunders indicated to the Union that she had no input whatsoever regarding the charges laid against the offender and she had no direct contact with Prosecuting at all. She had never heard of Mr Meertens and had never liaised with him in any context. She provided the IO with all of the requested documentation, including doctor’s and dentist’s certificates. Constable Saunders indicated disappointment with the sentencing outcome and has described the fine the offender received as “quite pitiful” compared to what she has suffered.

This report goes on and on. Is it any wonder that this report concludes in the way it does? There are photos here of officers with bites on their forearms, with piercing of their skin and with big bruises radiating out. The government said, “You will go to jail, no ifs and no buts”, but not under this Minister for Police or this Premier. Is it any wonder that the Police Union, not the Labor Party, concluded that the statement that those who assault and cause bodily harm to a police officer will go to jail, no if and no buts, is an insult to the police officers who have experienced life altering assaults and have then had to watch as justice has not been served. This afternoon, the honourable Minister for Police stood up and with her hollow rhetoric again said that since the government has come to power, it has been tough on crime. When this mandatory legislation went through, I challenged the Attorney General to name one case in which sentencing was not appropriate, with no imprisonment. He could cite only one case—namely, in Fitzroy Crossing involving an Indigenous person who struck a police constable and did not receive a term of imprisonment. For some reason, the police did not appeal that case. That was the only case.

[Member’s time expired.]

**MS M.M. QUIRK (Girrawheen)** [3.44 pm]: This motion is to regretfully note that over the last two years Western Australia has become a less safe place to live. In this context we are not talking about sharks, we are talking about the response to crime, the measures that the government has introduced, the delusional statements made by the minister this afternoon as to the state of play and how wrong she is on many of the aspects that she asserted. It is incumbent upon the opposition to correct the record. Frankly, the minister would be well served not to try to destroy our already shaky relations with Indonesia and focus on the contenance of the people of Western Australia—she would be better served by better getting across her police portfolio.

I want to talk about a number of areas where government measures have fallen short of what is desired, and as a result have left the people of Western Australia feeling less safe. The first area relates to a bill that the Minister for Police’s predecessor put through this Parliament as urgent in 2010—the Criminal Code Amendment (Infringement Notices) Bill 2010. That bill’s rationale was to increase the range of offences for which an infringement notice could be issued. It was passed, I might add, with the support of the opposition. It is yet to be proclaimed. The rationale behind this bill was that the broader the range of infringement notices that could be issued, the more police could get back on the streets quicker, as they would not be tied up at the station dealing with unnecessary paperwork. The idea was to increase the police presence, which of course would have a deterrent effect on crime. That legislation has still not been proclaimed; it is quite extraordinary. It was

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something that at the time was certainly heralded as a major improvement to get police back on the streets, but the government has acted with glacial speed since, and there has been no rational explanation as to why that legislation has not been proclaimed. So, fail, fail, fail!

The second area where I do not believe the public of Western Australia feels safer is in relation to repeat drink-driving. This issue has been on the agenda for some time. About 30 per cent of drink-drivers are repeat drink-drivers, and of those there is a cohort of hardened drink-drivers who will offend and offend and offend. The minister has announced that she intends to introduce legislation for alcohol interlocks, but, frankly, technology has moved on and there are a range of measures that should be put in as well as alcohol interlocks. Alcohol interlocks do not stop a person, a drunk, getting in another car. Alcohol interlocks, as I said, will not necessarily prevent a person from going on the road, and a number of other technologies are currently available. Insufficient action is being taken in relation to those hard-core drink-drivers. It is very disturbing that law-abiding road users get on the road with 30 per cent of drink-drivers being repeat drink-drivers. The minister has been asked about this and has had submissions before her for some time, as I understand it—as did her predecessor—in relation to a repeat drink-driver strategy. That is more than just alcohol interlocks. We are yet to see that strategy.

The final area in which I think Western Australians feel less safe is in relation to firearms legislation and the administrative practices around firearms. I particularly note that two or three years ago a report by the Auditor General found that police had bad and out-of-date records concerning the location of many firearms. For example, a lot of people registered as firearms holders were in fact dead, and it was said that there needed to be a new computer system to get the system up to date. We have recently had an amnesty on firearms, but we are still in the position in which officers could attend premises with inaccurate records as to whether there are firearms on those premises. To me, that is a very dangerous situation. The police are attending premises, particularly in domestic violence situations, without up-to-date intelligence on whether firearms are present at those premises. Moreover, in relation to firearms, there had previously been a level of security with a regime to inspect firearm storage. That has now been abandoned. The firearms branch of the police no longer inspects firearm storage.

I recall a theft in Karratha of 13 firearms from the Department of Agriculture. Apparently, a key to the firearms cabinet that was kept in a drawer was accessed and 13 firearms were taken. There is no longer a regime in place and no on-the-spot inspections for the storage of firearms because of cost cutting and resourcing. That is a matter for major concern. I am also concerned that sporting clubs are now given the responsibility for training and safety checks. The regime of registration through Australia Post also raises some issues of concern. Previously, firearms licensing involved local knowledge. A local police sergeant or the officer in charge of a police station knew the individual who was coming in to renew their licence and had much better intelligence about whether that person remained a fit person to hold a firearm.

There has been total inaction on repeat drink-driving. Frankly, if we were really concerned about the safety of Western Australians, we would be focusing on road safety instead of sharks. Approximately 200 Western Australians die on the roads every year, many of whom are the victims of drink-drivers, yet this government has been incredibly tardy and moved with glacial speed to introduce decent and comprehensive sanctions for repeat drink-drivers.

I am also concerned about how the proceeds of speed and red-light cameras are spent. The member for Hillarys mentioned that matter today. Legislation was amended so that 100 per cent of the proceeds of speed and red-light camera fines would go to the road trauma trust fund. That fund is being raided so that not 100 per cent of the proceeds are going to road safety projects. RoadWise funding—a great initiative by local government to look at grassroots projects—has been abolished and in its place money from the road trauma trust fund is being spent on police overtime and Main Roads expenditure, and that money should come out of the substantive budget.

The final matter I want to talk about relates to the law and order laws passed by the government. For example, the Premier's address stated that new laws will be introduced to amend laws that were introduced some time ago relating to the mandatory sentencing provisions in the Sentencing Act. During the second and third reading and consideration in detail stages of the debate on that bill, the opposition indicated to the Minister for Police that there was a problem with the bill and that the full sentence would not be served as intended because of the overriding impact of the Sentencing Act. The minister was very closed to the representations the opposition made that that was a problem with the bill. Now we have to waste Parliament's time and bring back legislation because of a loophole that was pointed out to the minister. One could call it her yellow Lamborghini moment. In any event, the law-and-order credentials of this government and this minister are such that in the three areas that I have mentioned, people in Western Australia do not feel safer. Her claim that the rate of crime is going down is delusional.

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**MS J.M. FREEMAN (Mirrabooka)** [3.53 pm]: I briefly rise to commend the amendment to the Premier's Statement to the house, particularly because I am concerned about the reduction in the number of police in the west metropolitan area, and Mirrabooka in particular. I understand from the Minister for Police's answer to a question on notice that in 2009 there were 317 police stationed in the west metropolitan police district and in 2013 that was reduced to 288. That is a major concern for the community because many of those police resources are drawn from one area of need to another. I understand that the west metropolitan police district has a major project around Scarborough Beach centred on a zero-tolerance approach to drinking and bad behaviour. Those police patrol Scarborough Beach on foot and have a constant police presence on the weekends, unlike at other beaches. The police who are involved in that project are pulled from other areas in the west metropolitan district, such as Mirrabooka, which has a great need for those police. I would be interested to know from the Minister for Police whether that project has any adverse impact on the availability of police in Mirrabooka. I commend the police at Mirrabooka because they are extraordinarily responsive to my concerns when I raise matters with them. I have a great working relationship with the community policing officer in Mirrabooka.

[Quorum formed.]

**Ms J.M. FREEMAN:** I thank members for attending and making up a quorum. I am talking briefly about the serious issue of police numbers in the west metropolitan police district. I want to put on the record my concern about the reduction in the number of police in the west metropolitan police district from 317 in 2009 to 288 in 2013. This has an impact on the time it takes police to respond. I have been contacted by constituents about police response times, as I am sure have all members. Only a week or so ago, a very concerned son of a resident contacted me about what he considered to be a drug house in his area. He contacted me because he felt that no action had been taken after his continual contacts with the police. After I raised that matter with the police, they took a keener look at it and agreed that there were some serious issues at that house. That concerns me, because it should not take me to do that before the police respond. It is similar to the housing issue. These things should not be managed through the offices of members of Parliament. Whilst I am happy to assist with and to solve people's issues, I worry that these are systemic issues with how things are monitored and dealt with. Instead of having a containment policy, it takes someone to complain before a matter is dealt with. Frankly, I think this occurs because there is a shortage of personnel. I note that the question on notice the member for Midland raised shows that those 288 police officers also include police officers who were on leave with pay.

For me, reduction in crime is also about prevention. The house would be well aware that I asked a question last year about social workers who work with repeat juvenile offenders and the fact that this government did not continue to fund two social workers who had worked consistently with repeat juvenile offenders in the west metropolitan district, which includes Morley and some areas covered by the members for Bassendean and Morley. They had been working with kids who had quite serious behavioural problems, and that had led to a massive reduction in their offending. Those sorts of relationships take a long time to form, so the lack of continued funding by the state government for those social workers to assist the police officer who deals with these repeat juvenile offenders is of great concern to me. It is not enough to just put police on the streets; we need to also do something to resource good-quality people to provide services around the police to ensure that their work is effective.

I also note the work in Koondoola and Alexander Heights by the north metropolitan police, and I thank them for their good work. They have worked pretty consistently to try to reduce crime in Koondoola and Alexander Heights. Unfortunately, there has been a spate of vehicle thefts in Alexander Heights. One big difficulty in some areas—I am not sure whether this is shared by other electorates—is petty crime such as begging. Police will not come out and deal with begging, yet it can be a really serious problem and quite confronting for residents, undermining their feeling of security. When they go to a local shop and experience quite aggressive begging, it undermines their feeling of security in our community. If the government is saying that it has the police numbers to deal with these sorts of things, then that is an issue that needs to be dealt with. I previously said in the house that the way to deal with such problems is to bring the police and the community together. I did that at the Nollamara shops, which are now part of the member for Morley's area. By bringing police, the community, local government and residents together on a regular basis, we were able to deal with what was quite chronic begging around the Nollamara shops. I wrote to the Minister for Police to say that something similar needs to happen around the Koondoola shops, because that is a really bad precinct for begging. All I got back was a platitude that the government is dealing with crime and is dealing with this. I was saying to her that I was happy to work on a project and to coordinate it, and that as long as the police were given the capacity to attend the meetings, we could do something about petty crime. That is a real concern for me.

I am also concerned about the undermining of community policing. We have lost a community policing officer in the north metropolitan region. This was someone who had worked there for a long time and had worked consistently with the community. He was given a clear indication that he should take redundancy because his

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services were no longer required. So someone who had really long and continued service in the police force—he was aged to a certain extent—and who had worked very effectively with the community as a community policing officer has been lost from the service and to the community. I think that is what has happened under this government with the undermining of Neighbourhood Watch. I understand that the way they now do it is to look at the priority crimes. There is a lot of statistics stuff happening. They look at the statistics of where they think crime will occur and focus on that. That is all well and good, but that does not actually make people feel safer. It is community policing and having police on the beat, rather than just the signs that say “Beware; lock up your house” as one drives past, that actually make people feel safer. Even if the minister can say that the government has done this, the reality is that the community does not feel safer. We all know that because people now post things on Facebook sites that they would normally have asked the police to help with. The Minister for Health will be interested in this. He might remember Jane Myers, who is a campaigner for organ transplants. She and her sons live in the Morley electorate now. Jane Myers recently posted on Facebook that her two sons’ bikes were stolen. Her older son has had multiple transplant surgery that has led to him having a chronic disease, so this is pretty hard for her. She posted a pleading message on Facebook. In the old days we probably drove around looking for stolen bicycles. Now individuals have to look after themselves when it comes to these sorts of petty crimes because police resources do not extend to that. I hope the police do find her bikes. It is great that we have these resources to be able to post messages on Facebook, but the daily reality for a lot of people in our community is that they do not feel that they are being serviced by the police. If we really want to make the community feel a sense of wellbeing, then the police are an integral part of that.

*Division*

Amendment put and a division taken, the Acting Speaker (Mr N.W. Morton) casting his vote with the noes, with the following result —

Ayes (19)

Ms L.L. Baker	Mr D.J. Kelly	Mr P. Papalia	Mr C.J. Tallentire
Mr R.H. Cook	Mr F.M. Logan	Mr J.R. Quigley	Mr P.C. Tinley
Ms J. Farrer	Mr M. McGowan	Ms M.M. Quirk	Mr P.B. Watson
Ms J.M. Freeman	Ms S.F. McGurk	Mrs M.H. Roberts	Mr D.A. Templeman ( <i>Teller</i> )
Mr W.J. Johnston	Mr M.P. Murray	Ms R. Saffioti	

Noes (34)

Mr P. Abetz	Mr J.H.D. Day	Dr G.G. Jacobs	Mr D.C. Nalder
Mr F.A. Alban	Ms W.M. Duncan	Mr S.K. L’Estrange	Mr J. Norberger
Mr C.J. Barnett	Ms E. Evangel	Mr R.S. Love	Mr D.T. Redman
Mr I.M. Britza	Mr J.M. Francis	Mr W.R. Marmion	Mr A.J. Simpson
Mr T.R. Buswell	Mrs G.J. Godfrey	Mr J.E. McGrath	Mr M.H. Taylor
Mr G.M. Castrilli	Dr K.D. Hames	Mr P.T. Miles	Mr T.K. Waldron
Mr V.A. Catania	Mrs L.M. Harvey	Ms A.R. Mitchell	Mr A. Krsticevic ( <i>Teller</i> )
Mr M.J. Cowper	Mr C.D. Hatton	Mr N.W. Morton	
Ms M.J. Davies	Mr A.P. Jacob	Dr M.D. Nahan	

Pairs

Mr B.S. Wyatt	Mr B.J. Grylls
Dr A.D. Buti	Mr I.C. Blayney

Amendment thus negatived.

*Consideration Resumed*

**MS M.M. QUIRK (Girrawheen)** [4.10 pm]: The other day I received an invitation to participate in a fundraising event for police and community youth centres. Those involved in the event are required to be locked up in cells at the Francis Burt Law Centre armed with a mobile phone and are released only when a certain amount of money is pledged by persons contacted by the detainee. I am sure this is a very worthy event and I have had the privilege over a number of years to visit many PCYCs throughout the state and I know they do very valuable work. They build positive relationships between young people and police and intervene early with kids at risk of offending. This invitation made me reflect that in the burgeoning outer northern suburbs there are no PCYCs. In the metropolitan area, there are centres in Armadale, Claremont, Fremantle, Gosnells, Kensington, Midland, Serpentine and Subiaco. The Mayor of Wanneroo frequently reminds us whenever we go to functions that 21 people a day arrive in the City of Wanneroo; however, the region does not have a PCYC. For the purposes of accuracy, I should say there was formerly a PCYC in the north east at Morley; however, this has closed and I am not sure why. Also, there was a PCYC some years ago in Balga, which floundered when the officer in charge embezzled funds by selling gym equipment and then fled to Thailand.

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**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members! There are too many audible conversations in the chamber.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** I know that Commissioner O’Callaghan has mixed feelings about PCYCs, but the truth of the matter is that it is a model that works very well in many communities. This is coupled with the uncertainty for community policing in the north west metropolitan region crime prevention office, as well as for those wanting to join Neighbourhood Watch who are no longer being recruited and, instead, are being diverted to ewatch, which is no more than an online notification service. Crime prevention is about more than disseminating information after the event, although I commend the Warwick police, who are particularly active on Twitter, and sometimes their timely tweets have the effect of making locals more mindful of risks, persons of interest and crime trends.

Crime prevention cannot be reactive. It should be about identifying situations in which opportunistic crime may occur and acting to minimise that occurring before the event. It is about developing relationships of trust and networks within the community so that intelligence is up to date and situations do not escalate. In terms of crime prevention, the north west metropolitan region community is not well served.

I particularly want to make mention of the response to hooning in my electorate. I think there has been a lacklustre response. It is invariably the case that if one drives down Hepburn Avenue, Furniss Road, Blackmore Avenue, Hudson Avenue and Aristos Way, to name a few, there will be numerous signs of recent and persistent hooning offences. I put a question on notice to the minister on 5 December last year about offences against sections 60(1), 60(1b), 62A(a) and 62A(b) of the Road Traffic Act that relate to driving in an inherently dangerous fashion, speed in excess of 45 kilometres an hour over the limit, causing excessive noise and causing excessive smoke from vehicle tyres. I asked the minister how many offences against those sections had resulted in charges. The minister’s response was that in 2012–13 there had been 21 in Landsdale, five in Madeley, four in Darch, eight in Girrawheen, three in Warwick and four in Marangaroo. For the year to date, 2013–14, there had been one charge in Landsdale, two in Madeley, two in Darch, one in Girrawheen, three in Warwick and two in Marangaroo. I was not very impressed with the figures for 2012–13, but it is possible that this year will be substantially worse. I appeal to the minister that if she is really serious about action on hoons, the rhetoric needs to be accompanied by major enforcement action.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, there are ways to exit the chamber, other than passing between me and person with the call. That is fine; I thought you were leaving the chamber.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Hooning disturbs the quiet amenity of our suburbs and represents a danger to other drivers and pedestrians. The poor enforcement effort is totally at odds with the minister’s rhetoric and frequent boastful claims that this government has successfully addressed the problem of hooning.

On a more positive note, I am very pleased to say that the Clontarf Foundation has finally ventured into the northern suburbs, establishing a student academy at Girrawheen Senior High School. Members will be aware that the Clontarf Foundation exists to improve the education, discipline, life skills, self-esteem and employment prospects of young Aboriginal men. By doing so, Clontarf equips them to participate meaningfully in the community. Since opening its first academy in 2000 with 25 boys, the Clontarf Foundation now has almost 3 000 boys in 27 academies in Victoria, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and New South Wales. The philosophy of Clontarf is that failure to experience achievement when young, coupled with a position of disadvantage and underprivilege, can lead to alienation, anger and more serious consequences. As a prelude to tackling these issues, participants are first provided with an opportunity to succeed and in turn raise their self-esteem. The vehicle for doing that is through Australian Rules football in this state, and certainly in New South Wales through rugby league. This is a very important school engagement mechanism. Some preliminary research that Gerard Neesham told me about suggested that an academic evaluation of the success of Clontarf will shortly be released that certainly endorses its philosophy. It is proof that Clontarf works and has excellent outcomes. I wish Clontarf every success at Girrawheen and say its entry into the northern suburbs is way overdue, but we are very pleased to see it.

Another positive recent development that I want to acknowledge is the recent launch of the City of Wanneroo’s “Public Health Plan 2014/15–2016/17”. Although this plan was developed to align with the proposed public health bill to replace the outmoded Health Act 1911, the enactment of a new bill has been stalled for almost a decade. The Minister for Health is here and he can probably tell me why, I am sure.

**Dr K.D. Hames:** It is being redrafted and I hope to have it in the middle of this year for submissions around government liability, particularly for remote communities.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** The issue in remote communities has always been a vexed question.

As an aside on this bill, I note in the Premier’s Statement that he pledged to repeal outmoded and anachronistic laws, and parts of the Health Act certainly fall into that category, which makes laws on earth closets, conferring

powers on local government to impose pan charges and powers to seize pigs. These provisions are clearly past their use-by date and in need of repeal.

Getting back to the public health plan, it is not possible to disaggregate the figures for my electorate, but in general they are likely to correlate with those for the whole City of Wanneroo. For example, we know that there is a strong link between poor health and socioeconomic status. The City of Wanneroo's socioeconomic index for areas—SEIFA—index of relative disadvantage is 1025.5, but there are areas of greater economic disadvantage within the city and I suspect that my electorate would certainly be below that figure. In comparison with the greater Perth area, the City of Wanneroo has a higher proportion of people who left school at the early level of year 10 or less, a lower proportion of people who completed year 12 or equivalent, a lower proportion of people holding formal qualifications of a bachelor or higher degree and a high proportion of people with no formal qualifications. Similarly, there is a smaller percentage of people employed as professionals and managers than in greater Perth. According to the 2011 Australian Bureau of Statistics census of Wanneroo's population, 95.1 per cent are employed, of which 64 per cent work full-time and 34 per cent part-time.

The leading causes of death in the City of Wanneroo coincide with those in the general community. These are cardiovascular disease, cancer and diabetes; however, mental health problems, arthritis and cancer are also prevalent. The growing prevalence of chronic disease is caused by many factors, including poor diet, smoking and physical inactivity. The Western Australian Department of Health, through its studies, found that there are a higher number of smokers in Wanneroo, as well as greater alcohol intake at harmful levels. There are also higher levels of physical inactivity, unhealthy eating and mental health issues than in metropolitan Western Australia. Two in three people in the city are overweight or obese, which is higher than both the metropolitan rates and for all Australians. One in two people are not physically active enough, 52 per cent do not eat enough fruit, 67 per cent are overweight or obese and one in three consume high enough levels of alcohol for long-term harm. One in five people smoke, one in six have current mental health problems and 88 per cent do not eat enough vegetables, which is a shame because Wanneroo is one of the great food-producing areas in the metropolitan area.

Encouraging people to live healthy lives and providing the resources for them to do so is an immense challenge for all levels of government. In its public health plan, the council concludes —

The City's rapid growth and infrastructure development has impacted on the health and wellbeing of our community. It is recognised that social infrastructure needs to be developed to support health and wellbeing and build community capacity. Therefore, the City will continue to provide the traditional health roles of reducing harm from disease, ensuring safe drinking water, managing food safety, enforcing legislation to ensure safe housing and controlling mosquitoes and vermin, but it will also take a stronger role in actively building the capacity and wellbeing of their communities to ensure they are strong, healthy and self-reliant.

In my electorate the challenge is to ensure that there are basics in newly developed areas such as safe footpaths and usable open space. There is also an interface with light industrial areas that is creating concerns about compliance with noise and emission regulations, which, of course, would compromise access to healthy air. In the older areas, the imperative is to revitalise and reclaim public open space. Some of these sites are notorious for antisocial behaviour. There needs to be ready access to public transport and a reduction in car dependency implemented hand in hand with the other measures. Also allied to this is access to a sufficient allocation of resources so that we can maintain those public open spaces. That is currently problematic because the City of Wanneroo does not have a sufficient water allocation to do that. Better public lighting would encourage more people to exercise and use our parks over a longer period. There is an argument about the level of light intensity needed to comply with current Australian standards and that which would provide a safe, secure environment in which to exercise. There are now LED lights and I understand that a former Minister for Environment has conducted a trial at Kingsway City Shopping Centre with LED lights that have a greater light intensity and save money. I certainly encourage councils to look at a greater use of these LED lights, which would have the positive externality of people being encouraged to exercise more as there would be more opportunity to do so.

It is generally well known that urban sprawl, such as exists in my electorate and to the north, has a provable nexus to health concerns. The challenges of rapid growth in areas such as the City of Wanneroo mean that we will not be able to achieve better health outcomes without state government assistance. Greater health outcomes, through healthy lifestyles, have a positive externality with fewer people in our costly health and hospital system. I had a recent experience with the construction of a fast-food restaurant—McDonald's—opposite my electorate office that has led me to understand that there is not much autonomy in communities to protest against the construction of fast-food outlets. I am not against fast food—people should have the choice—but in my electorate there are probably five fast-food restaurants from that chain within a three-kilometre radius. Just as we

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have special provisions for the density of alcohol outlets, we should also consider there being some capacity in our planning laws to limit the number of the same fast-food outlets in a particular area.

**Dr K.D. Hames:** The Western Australian Council of Social Service wants to do that with cigarettes as well.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Yes, it does.

I have done some research on the subject of fast food and there is currently debate amongst researchers. They are not sure whether the chicken or the egg came first, but there are theories advanced that suggest that areas of disadvantage are targeted by fast-food chains, leading to higher levels of obesity in those areas. Others say that a statistically significant greater prevalence of fast-food outlets in poorer areas accounts for the correlation between obesity and social disadvantage.

[Member's time extended.]

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** It is not clear whether it is a conscious targeting by fast-food chains, but in any event the outcome is the same and we need to take some measures. In the situation with that particular fast-food outlet, the proposal did not even go before the elected officials of the council. It was decided and approved by the chief executive officer because most councils are now gun-shy about not approving such outlets. The planning restrictions are so limited that there are few reasons to refuse approval. A number of communities that have done so were taken to the State Administrative Tribunal and knocked back.

I will now raise a couple of issues in relation to my shadow portfolios. The first relates to the government's commitment to deal with firefighters and cancer. As many members are aware, the government went to the state election peddling the lie that firefighter cancer laws—so-called presumptive legislation—would apply equally to the 30 000-plus volunteer firefighters and the career firefighters. The Western Australian Liberal emergency services policy brought out before the election states —

A re-elected Liberal Government will introduce amendments to legislation which ensure a career or volunteer firefighter who developed one of 12 prescribed cancers recognised in similar Commonwealth Legislation would have a significantly simplified workers' compensation consideration. These changes to legislation will provide cover for career and volunteer firefighters who predominantly undertake structural firefighting duties and retrospectively take into account past years of service.

As we know, those laws were passed last year for career firefighters; however, at no point was the commitment honoured for volunteers. At the time the bill was debated, the Minister for Emergency Services said —

We made a commitment to consider the position of volunteers, and we will honour that commitment and address all the other firefighters in a separate round of legislation.

I was concerned that I did not hear any reference to that in the Premier's Statement. I hope the minister will act promptly and fulfil the commitment.

Volunteers increasingly feel that they are being taken for granted and believe that prompt action by the government to fulfil its election promise on cancer laws would be an important signal that their substantial contribution to our emergency response efforts is truly valued. Also on the health of volunteer firefighters, recent research has emerged suggesting a higher prevalence of cardiovascular disease in volunteer firefighters. This may well be because of the age cohort of the volunteers, but, again, that requires further examination. It is certainly almost trite to say that exposure to smoke, dust, heat and pollutants, interrupted or little sleep and stress—all present in firefighting situations—are likely to be aggravating factors in contracting cardiovascular disease.

Thirdly, the imminent shutdown of the very high frequency band on the emergency radio network is problematical. Problems with the digital emergency radio network are frequent, with many black holes. VHF is used as a backup when the multimillion-dollar new system experiences problems. Somewhat ironically, the new system does not work well in smoke and certain terrain, and when this occurs, volunteers need to revert to the VHF band. One of the pleas that the volunteers made to me recently is that they would prefer it if the VHF channel was kept online until the major problems with the new network are ironed out.

The other thing that we have talked about before in Parliament is the failure to legislate under planning laws for bushfire-prone areas as recommended by the Keelty report "A Shared Responsibility: The Report of the Perth Hills Bushfire February 2011 Review". That is simply inexcusable. I understand that there are instances in which councils have imposed conditions under the guidelines—they are only guidelines—which effectively means better access to water and better egress in a subdivision. However, such conditions were challenged by developers, who won in the State Administrative Tribunal because they are only guidelines. The import of all this is that developments currently being built on the urban fringe still have inadequate provision to enable firefighters and residents to safely defend and protect homes and to evacuate in a timely fashion.

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Lastly, I want to mention in this context the “Are You Bushfire Ready?” campaign. I was pleased to hear in a response to a question in the Legislative Council yesterday that the effectiveness of this campaign will be evaluated. I also welcome the undertaking that that evaluation will be made public. Almost \$1 million was spent on that campaign, but it is clear from recent events that the message is not necessarily getting through. Anecdotal evidence from volunteers suggests that it is extremely common for householders to say, “I thought it would never happen to me.” This suggests that there is a fundamental threshold message that needs to be communicated before the broader message can be properly absorbed.

In terms of heritage, I note the Premier’s commitment to introduce the long-awaited heritage bill. I am not optimistic that it will successfully address the issues surrounding so-called demolition by neglect, that it will enable independent valuations of properties when it is contended by an owner that a property is beyond repair, or that it will give the government sufficient powers to intervene by way of compulsory acquisition. In recent years, the government has, for example, been reluctant to place a building on the state Register of Heritage Places if an owner does not consent. The latest of these is the Michelides building in Northbridge. The fate of the Michelides building highlights fatal flaws in our outmoded heritage laws. The City of Perth recently approved the demolition of this historic building on Roe Street. This is despite the fact that the Heritage Council of Western Australia recommended that the building be placed on the state heritage register, but Minister Jacob ignored the advice of the experts on the council. I also note that the National Trust of Australia listed it in 2012. This classic and unique art deco building is also an important landmark for the Greek community and started its life as the Michelides Tobacco Factory. It is a significant reminder of the enterprise and diligence of an early migrant family in Western Australia. It is not clear why the Minister for Heritage refused to place the building on the state heritage register despite the recommendations. Unfortunately, because of that, the City of Perth’s rationale for demolition is that if the building were of some value, it would be on the state heritage register. Mr Jacob’s refusal to listen to the experts means that the building, the only one of its kind left in the City of Perth, will be lost forever. The imminent demolition of this building highlights major flaws in the existing heritage laws, which the Barnett government has exploited, through successful ministers, by refusing to list buildings when an owner does not consent to it being listed. As with the Guildford Hotel, the Barnett government is prepared to sit on its hands and let owners permit buildings to deteriorate to the extent that restoration is no longer viable. That is a major problem. We will look very closely at the new heritage bill to make sure that these flaws are not incorporated within the legislation.

On the issue of seniors, I want to welcome the passage of the Western Australian Photo Card Bill 2013 through the upper house. We do, however, consider it anomalous that an age pensioner does not have to pay for a driver’s licence, but they will be required to pay for a photo identification card. The administrative work and steps to produce an ID card are exactly the same as that for a driver’s licence, so we hope that the government reconsiders that.

There has been some discussion about seniors who lose their drivers’ licences. There have been some letters in the newspaper; unfortunately, I do not have time to refer to them now. There needs to be some program for seniors who, for example, are not necessarily computer savvy and cannot access timetables or route maps by way of the internet. There is a very successful program in Queensland called the UQDrive program, whereby seniors are eased into the transition of giving up their licence and getting on public transport. They are taken on rides on various forms of transport and they are told how to operate the electronic cards and access timetables and the like. This relieves some of the hidden trauma that a lot of seniors face when they are no longer able to drive. I know that the Council on the Ageing supports this program. I have also discussed it with the RAC. We would certainly very much encourage the introduction of such a program, which would go hand in hand with the photo ID card and would also mean that people do not retain their licence for longer than they should safely.

The final thing that I want to say is that Alzheimer’s Australia is supporting a petition to the Prime Minister to place dementia prominently on the G20 agenda. The petition urges the Prime Minister to build on the action taken at a recent G8 dementia summit, which set the stage for a global fight against dementia. Australia’s own Asia-Pacific region has a major share of the world’s population of people with dementia, with numbers estimated to reach 135 million by 2050. Dementia is set to have a global economic impact. The current worldwide cost of dementia care is more than \$US600 billion a year, or around one per cent of global domestic product. If dementia care were a country, it would rank as the world’s eighteenth largest economy. I encourage members to go on the Alzheimer’s Australia website and sign that petition.

To conclude, the Premier’s address fails to inspire. Many of the legislative initiatives he outlined were bills from last year. Nor did it incite optimism that his government could openly, professionally and competently address a range of intractable problems that confront our community.

**MR C.D. HATTON (Balcatta)** [4.42 pm]: I rise today to contribute to the debate on the Premier’s Statement. I am extremely enthusiastic to enter the chamber this year to continue to represent the electorate of Balcatta. Over

the parliamentary break I was in contact with many people and I very clearly sensed the appreciation that people have for living in this great state, with its outstanding natural resources and assets. However, WA is also a state that has significant geographical challenges, including its remoteness, providing infrastructure and services and promoting culture and tourism to a growing population. I can say with confidence that at this time in WA's history I am working with a strong visionary government that is meeting these challenges and moving WA into a place for present generations and future generations. Personally, I am very passionate about youth culture, the strength of families and caring for the elderly and the ageing. This passion and belief is why I support this Western Australian Liberal–National government that delivers for the people in the areas of health, education and law and order.

The people of Western Australia—the young, the families and the elderly—are continuing to benefit from the strong commitment of this government in the key areas of their lives. Less than a year ago, this Liberal-led state government experienced a landslide second-term election victory. The people of Western Australia seized the moment to support a strong decisive state government that would deliver a robust, sustainable and vibrant economy. Shortly after the state election, in the federal election the people of Western Australia and Australia again seized the moment to say to Labor that they have had enough. They have had enough of reckless spending, public service wage blowouts and neglect, and unsustainable social service spending. They said that they wanted a government that will deliver for the core values of Australians—stability, growth, business and employment opportunities, safety and security. Since 2008, this Western Australian government has committed to major infrastructure development to accommodate a rapidly growing population. We have seen the unprecedented building of new hospitals, schools and road infrastructure. Western Australia continues to maintain a strong economy and it is a desirable place to live and work. During the past five years the WA government, with the strong leadership of our Premier, has invested heavily in health, education and essential services, including public transport.

**Ms S.F. McGurk:** Education.

**Mr C.D. HATTON:** I will get to education. Free off-peak travel for Seniors Card holders is a great initiative. We all recognise the congestion problems in Perth. Massive financial input has been made in road infrastructure. We have the Mitchell Freeway north and south extensions and the widening of the freeway. We also have the widening of the tunnel with the addition of a third lane, which is working beautifully. For the common public transport traveller, not only on rail and buses, we have introduced camera surveillance into the taxi service. I mentioned in a speech last year how important that is to me because my three young girls travel in taxis at night.

In the area of health, the state-of-the-art 783-bed Fiona Stanley Hospital is nearing completion and is soon to be operational. The new Perth Children's Hospital is well under construction. Regional hospitals and health campuses have been built and refurbished in Albany, Kalgoorlie and Karratha, just to name a few. On top of that, \$68.5 million has been allocated to the Royal Flying Doctor Service for remote health needs. In the area of health, this government is regarded as having the best record in Australia for not only city health needs, but also regional health needs.

I turn to education. Since 2008, 30 schools have been constructed or are being constructed and another seven are planned. That is massive. In addition, Western Australian teachers, as we all know, and we have heard again this week, are the highest paid in Australia. A further \$4.1 billion has been allocated to the Western Australian education system in 2012–13. There is sufficient allocation and support to enrich educational outcomes for every student in WA. The new funding model will do this. The new funding model is based on individual allocation of money. We have adopted the Gonski and Teese reports. We are initiating this, and on top of this, we have the independent public schooling, which is state-of-the-art and revolutionary. The Australian federal government is adopting it as its model.

Overall, WA is very well placed to cater for a growing population. Significant investment in road and transport infrastructure must and will continue to be a priority of this government. Perth is no longer a sleepy, small city. It is now a modern city on the move where people expect things to happen. This government is doing that and meeting people's expectations. I am confident that the people of Perth and regional WA are benefiting from building and rebuilding in essential service areas. A number of major projects are offering a new vibrancy to our modern and diverse economy.

In the area of business growth, it is interesting to note that the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia recently expressed a renewed optimism in the broader economy of Western Australia and the ability to pursue growth. Essentially, business growth supports business opportunity and promotes consumer confidence throughout the state. I have regular contact with business owners in the Balcatta electorate. The Balcatta electorate is a commercial, retail and light industrial outlet that has been around for decades and is expanding and growing rapidly. I have talked a lot with the business owners and the hardworking people in these businesses

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in Balcatta. The problem that some of the business owners have is not their business confidence, but the burden of a red tape, which adds to their workload. I will come back to that in a moment.

Housing construction is gathering pace in WA. First home buyers' demand for new houses is strong and investors are back in the market. Dwelling construction in the second half of 2012–13 has been the highest in over four years in Western Australia. This is further good news for the trades. Employment opportunities will continue in mining and domestic markets.

I will point out some of the housing issues in the Balcatta electorate. The electorate has a cross-section of demographics in six suburbs. There are over 700 public houses. I assure members that my electorate office is quite busy, not because the new, tougher public housing laws on tenants are not working, but because I think that they are not properly understood. I will come back to that later if I have time.

I turn to the traffic issues in Balcatta. There is congestion on the main arterial roads of Cedric Street, the Mitchell Freeway, Main Street and Wanneroo Road heading north–south. I am glad to say that this government is helping to deal with that. Major roadworks are now being planned for Reid Highway on the section between Erindale Road and Duffy Road in Carine. Amongst many other roadwork projects this government has completed since 2008 and is continuing to inject finance into, it has committed \$48 million into that section of highway to dual it, to reduce traffic congestion and to increase driver and pedestrian safety. I look forward to that construction starting in the next year and to be completed by 2016.

From talking to people in my electorate, I find that there seems to be some anxiety about why there cannot be longer right-hand turning lanes. This is bottlenecking some of the arterial roads. I am pleased to say that there is now a right-hand turning lane extending into Karrinyup Road turning north into Cedric Street. That has greatly reduced the congestion in that area and also, on top of that—I do not know whether members know of this happening much in Perth but it is a great idea—drivers can actually stop at the lights and do a U-turn at that intersection when it is safe to do so. The signage indicates that that can be done. I think it is a great initiative. There are new lights at Karrinyup Road and Jones Street. The arterial road of Main Street has been upgraded. At the moment I am working on speed limits. Speed limits seem to be a bit out of kilter in parts of Balcatta, as I am sure they are in other parts of Perth. I am trying to increase the speed limit on Delawney Street from 50 to 60 kilometres an hour. That street is only one kilometre long and has one house, yet it has a 50-kilometre-an-hour speed limit. At times the police quite enjoy booking people for travelling not much over that speed. When I say that they “enjoy” it, they are doing what they are told to do but the public does not obviously share that same enjoyment. There is actually a 60-kilometre-an-hour speed limit outside a major shopping centre in Balcatta with a dedicated crosswalk used by many disabled people. Residents have asked me to look into decreasing that speed limit. I am working with Main Roads Western Australia and the council, as well as talking to Mirrabooka police.

As I mentioned a while ago, there are several hundred state houses in Balcatta. I have been working closely with the Minister for Housing and the Department of Housing at Mirrabooka in promoting the reporting of disruptive behaviour and the three-strikes policy. I have attended strata title meetings with some residents from the electorate to help them understand the process. I am very happy to say that only this morning a particular disruptive tenant at one of these places has been given three strikes. But, members of the opposition, that does not mean they are chucked out on the street. Maybe members opposite do not know, but it then goes to the magistrate and the magistrate will decide through the judicial process where that person goes or what happens to that person. The main thing is that there is a social responsibility that those tenants need to understand. That is the premise of the disruptive behaviour, “three strikes and you’re out” rule.

It is interesting to note that there are a lot of building companies in Balcatta. In talking to some of these builders about the government’s affordable housing policy—which I applaud; 20 000 houses by 2020—I am really pleased to hear their dialogue about wanting to provide affordable housing for young people; housing such as terraced housing and two and three-bedroom accommodation. This is great to hear. This is coming from the private sector, which wants to do it. However, there is a bit of red tape involved at the local council level, which I mentioned last year, in the approval process of single residential dwellings. I am working on that issue in housing.

I mention hooning. I applaud the new laws that this state government has put forward for the confiscation of hoon cars. Hooning is a problem in Balcatta. I am talking to Mirrabooka police about that. Getting tough on hoons is essential. I am very interested in getting tough on the noise that these hoons’ cars cause, disrupting people’s peaceful nights. That might sound rather soft but it is an issue. I still cannot understand why cars, and even motorbikes for that matter, are allowed to have such loud extractor-type systems on them. Maybe they are not allowed, but I will look into that. Members might hear a grievance from me in Parliament about that. I am helping people understand the hoon hotline. I recently tried that reporting hotline. I assure members that I was

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pleasantly surprised; everything I said was logged by the person at the other end against the reported numberplate.

I move on to essential services. The Osborne Park Hospital is in the Balcatta electorate. It is a great hospital that has been around for decades. Two new theatres are now being built. There is a proposed new car park. This state government has allocated \$3.5 million in 2013–14 for 500 parking bays at the hospital. I am working on bus routes in Joondanna around aged-care facilities. I must say that I am pleasantly surprised with the Department of Transport on the amount of consultation it is ready to conduct with the public. On the issue of safety and security, I welcome the new mandatory sentencing legislation for home invasions that will be introduced in 2014. It will involve tougher sentences, with 75 per cent of the term to be mandated. Less discretionary power will be available to the judicial system. Again, I point to more social responsibility: do not enter other people's property. I guess there is a theme that this government pushes forward, which is that social responsibility is very important.

The values of Western Australians are being served by this strong government with strong legislation. People value living and working in safe communities. What can Western Australians expect from 2014 and beyond? They can expect a further commitment by this government to important infrastructure, including schools, hospitals and police stations. The Scarborough and Morley Police Stations are being upgraded. There will be more commitments to roads and rail. Rail has been delayed, but there is still a strong commitment to it. There is a commitment to further enhance the vibrancy and liveability of the capital city, which is now rated one of the best in the world. Significant investment projects and events have been provided to the people of WA. Only a couple of weeks ago I was at Perth City Council representing the Premier. I gave an opening speech for the Perth International Arts Festival. We proceeded onto the foreshore to watch *Veles e Vents*, the Spanish–Australian–Indigenous intercultural event with a great fireworks display. That was just part of the Fringe World Festival and the Perth International Arts Festival, a festival into which we put \$120 000 in 2014.

I will move on. Elizabeth Quay will be a pivotal hub for families and others to enjoy. It is very exciting. Land lots have already been sold. There is hotel and residential planning. Opening events are planned for 2015. The Perth Stadium is a state-of-the-art stadium, and the new museum is still on the books. Northbridge Chinatown was allocated \$2 million in 2013–14. I have recently been involved in some of the celebrations on the Chinatown project. Scarborough and Cottesloe Beaches are being redeveloped. I have heard a lot in the chamber from the opposition about beach developments. Beaches are imperative to the lifestyle of Western Australians and we must provide essential services and amenities at Perth beaches.

I will move on, but I was going to mention the eastern gateway waterfront, so I might as well. An amount of \$32 million between 2013–14 and 2015–16 has been committed to that project.

Members of the opposition, economic stability and prosperity do not just happen. The Leader of the Opposition alluded to that this week in Parliament when he said that that can happen without a government! I do not know where he gets that thought from. It is absolutely ludicrous! It is remarkable where this state sits now, post GST. The Liberal–National government has provided investment opportunities to the mining sector and business.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr C.D. HATTON:** As I said earlier, this government will continue to explore ways to reduce red tape on business to regulate the burden and other impositions on business and industry.

Public service management is not an area in which the opposition does well. This government respects fair wage bargaining, with the assistance of the WA Industrial Relations Commission. The Workforce Reform Bill 2013, introduced into Parliament in 2013, will allow for sensible reforms to enhance redeployment arrangements and provide for involuntary severances. Progress is being made on developing the enhanced voluntary separation scheme for 1 000 public sector employees and a separate scheme for almost 200 police officers. Public service employment and service is immensely important to Western Australians and this government sets targets to provide more flexible service delivery while managing growth. This is what the opposition does not do well. Opposition policy in public service and public sector management is poor.

As I said in my opening words, I am extremely enthusiastic entering the chamber this year. My family, neighbours, friends, the people of the electorate of Balcatta and Western Australians are benefiting from massive infrastructure investment in this state—city and regional. As said earlier, some of that infrastructure is in Balcatta in the form of a major highway upgrade worth \$48 million. Currently, I am meeting community members, the City of Stirling, Main Roads and the police about traffic and pedestrian movement, road safety, law and order and, in particular, some hooning and noise emission issues.

I commend the Premier for his speech, which clearly and concisely sets the positive economic and social agenda for Western Australia. The government will continue to provide benefits to people living in this great state. It

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Mrs Michelle Roberts; Acting Speaker; Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Paul Papalia; Mr John Quigley; Ms Margaret Quirk; Ms Janine Freeman; Mr Chris Hatton

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will continue to deliver stability, security, growth and vibrancy. I also commend the government and the Minister for Tourism for their tourism initiatives. Tourism opportunities in WA are extensive and we need to promote our state, as well as overseas. Tourism supports an employment base in the business sector and it is absolutely vital to our economy.

I would like to say that there is excitement in this state. Of particular interest to many people are the opportunities to engage in sport and recreation. The government is providing major sporting venues for people to get out and socialise with friends and to passionately support local teams—and sometimes not local teams, as is the case with the AFL, which is fine. The new stadium will be big enough to support other supporters, which was not the privilege so much in the Patersons Stadium at Subiaco. The Perth Stadium is due to start construction later this year. It will no doubt be the best stadium in Australia and lead us into the future. On top of that is a major venture at Arena Joondalup, which the member for Joondalup would acknowledge, with \$20 million allocated to it in the 2013–14 budget. It is a multisport expansion for the rapidly growing northern sector.

However, big projects are only a part of the sport and recreation story. Apart from the very highly successful KidSport program, which is benefiting communities and schools in my electorate and which has now developed into the KidsCulture program, the government is providing funding for suburban clubs. To mention a few, these include \$3 million for the Mundaring basketball court; \$800 000 for the Morley–Noranda bowls club; and \$1 million for the Willetton Sports Club upgrade—or restarting; I have not been out there. It also includes the Centennial Park precinct in Albany. The member for Albany is not here, but I am sure that he would at least show some appreciation, for once. It also includes the Hartfield Park sporting complex in Forrestfield. The member for Forrestfield would be pleased with that particular complex, which is getting \$6.01 million. There is very good news in the \$4.7 million funding for the community sporting and recreation facilities fund.

We have very patiently and respectfully listened to members of the opposition this week, and in particular today, talk about the lack of policing. The opposition just does not get the big picture. I said that last year, and it still does not. It has recognised that the police do a fantastic job in this state, and this government certainly recognises it. The government has a commitment to increase police numbers by 720. Our 2013–14 commitment of \$215 million in the state budget over four years is to recruit, train and deploy an additional 400 police and 150 police auxiliary officers; that is a total of 550. We are going to increase the outer metropolitan police capacity with station upgrades. There is \$67 million allocated in capital expenditure in the 2013–14 state budget over four years to build and upgrade police stations. I do not know what the talk is about no police stations. The government is tackling hoon spots in Balcatta. The Mirrabooka police are very happy to work with me on hoon spots.

I want to mention small business one more time. Small business is vital to Balcatta. It is a business hub. It is one of the most recognised business hubs in Perth. These are some of the commitments the government has in this budget for small business. There is an increase of funding to the Small Business Centres program, with an allocation of \$8 million, extending through to 2017 for regional small business centres. Yesterday, I was at a breakfast with my local small business centre. This allocation of money will continue to provide advice and support to small businesses, to give small retail shops more flexibility to employ staff and expand their businesses, to provide more balanced unfair dismissal laws for small business, to tighten the right of entry laws—that is to do with commerce as well—to modernise WA's private sector awards and to simplify things for small business with a reduced number of up-to-date awards. I mentioned earlier how vital business is, and I mention it again. This government has stated categorically that it is committed to exploring ways to reduce red tape, regulatory burden and other impositions on business and industry.

In closing, I say again: this state is in very good hands and it has a government that will deliver for the people of Western Australia. I am proud to be here and am very enthusiastic.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr J.H.D. Day (Leader of the House)**.

*House adjourned at 5.09 pm*

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