

MEMBER FOR VASSE — ROAD TRAFFIC INCIDENT — POLICE INVESTIGATION

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

I have a supplementary question. On the general matter, is it standard operating procedure for reports of hit-and-run accidents not to be linked with dangerous driving that occurs in the same area?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I find this amazing; the member for Midland has a really short memory. I answered these questions yesterday and I will answer them again, as is consistent —

Several members interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Just to be clear, there has been a longstanding parliamentary convention that ministers separate themselves from the operational activities of investigating officers. Let me quote what the member for Midland said when she was Minister for Police —

I certainly give an assurance from my point of view, and I expect —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

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

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

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

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I quote —

I certainly give an assurance from my point of view, and I expect from future ministers' points of view too, that no minister would ask the commissioner to disclose matters that could in any way jeopardise any ongoing investigation ...

It is pretty clear that I agree with the member for Midland on very few things.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the second time. Member for Butler, I call you to order for the first time. I want to hear the minister in silence.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: As I said, I agree with the member for Midland on very few things, but when I see the stance that she has repeatedly taken on commenting on ongoing police investigations, I agree with the member for Midland on one thing: it is not appropriate for members to intervene in and comment on ongoing investigations. We will wait for the investigation to conclude and we will act on what the police advise us at the conclusion of the investigation, just like the member for Midland did when she was Minister for Police.

Tabling of Paper

Ms M.M. QUIRK: The minister was quoting from a document. She did not refer to the date, so maybe she would like to table it.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: It was from the *Hansard* of the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday, 12 October 2005. I also have one here from 8 April 2004 that pretty much states the same thing. I would be delighted to table both.

[See paper 1422.]