

ROE HIGHWAY STAGE 8 — POLICE PRESENCE

**1009. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Minister for Police:**

I acknowledge members of the community concerned about the Roe 8 project who are in the gallery today.

[Interruption from the gallery.]

**The SPEAKER:** I just want to tell people in the gallery that you are quite welcome to sit and listen but you are not allowed to clap, shout or make any noise in the gallery. Thank you very much.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I refer to the works being undertaken in the Roe 8 reserve and the very significant police presence there today.

- (1) How many police were present, and from what areas and duties were these police officers taken?
- (2) What is the budget for police support to the Roe 8 construction project?
- (3) Will Main Roads Western Australia cover the cost of the police presence?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:**

- (1)–(3) It is an interesting question from the Leader of the Opposition. The opposition in this state seems to think that as Minister for Police I should be directing where the police commissioner puts his resources, and that is not what we do. That is not what I do as minister.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! Members!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** It is not what I do as minister and, indeed, it would be improper of me to direct the commissioner as to where he should put any of his resources. With respect to the police attendance at Roe 8 this afternoon, I have been advised by the police that their monitoring of social media alerted them to the fact that there could well be some incidents out at Roe 8, at that job, that might require police attendance.

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** There have been members of the opposition—the Leader of the Opposition in particular—whipping up a storm and encouraging people to take radical protest action. The police are there to ensure that people can go about their lawful duties and go about their jobs without expecting an obstruction from protest activity. People are allowed to protest in this state, but if they break the law, we resource police to deal with that.

**Mr P.C. Tinley** interjected.

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