

POLICE — FRONTLINE 2020 PROGRAM

979. Mr C.D. HATTON to the Minister for Police:

Can the minister please inform the house about initiatives that are reducing red tape and putting our good police officers back on the front line?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Balcatta for his interest in police and policing, and his good work —

Dr A.D. Buti: Why don't you thank us for our interest in policing?

The SPEAKER: Member for Armadale!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I thank him for the good work he does with his colleagues on his committee with respect to looking at police processes.

Since 2013 WA Police has been engaged in a service definition and resource model inquiry into all police services. The purpose of this, sitting under the Frontline 2020 reform model, is to examine all the 480 different business units that sit within WA Police to determine whether each of those business units are actually a priority for policing under our Frontline 2020 model and to have a look at what jobs those police officers are doing to see whether we can free up resources for the front line. As a result of that we have used an evidence-based activity costing model to look at how we can optimise our resource allocations and to look at our business processes. We have engaged in a range of planning activities with all those 480 business units and, as a result of that activity, we have identified 98 police officers who have been freed from the desk to go back to the front line. They have come from areas such as project management, project officers, administrative support roles and some governance functions. Police have been freed from performing those roles and they are now back on the front line, which is what we train them to do. We are very pleased with that. Some of those officers have gone back, consistent with the Frontline 2020 model, into areas such as our State Control Centre and the State Command Centre, and we are very pleased with the activity we are getting out of those police officers in the roles that we have employed them to perform in.

In addition to that, members will remember that back in 2014 we repealed section 139(3) of the Criminal Investigation Act 2006, and as a result of that we anticipate that 46 000 hours of police time could be released to frontline activity by allowing police officers to hold people in holding cells rather than having to sit side by side with them and manage them in the absence of an ability to hold them in a cell. As a result of the repeal of section 139(3), we now have the equivalent of 24 police full-time equivalents back on the front line.

We are continuing with this process; it has been very successful. We are driving more efficiencies and, as a result of the return of those 98 police officers and the SDRM process, we have returned a value to the taxpayer of around \$28 million in effective policing from desk jobs out to the front line, where the community wants them.