

POLICE AUXILIARY OFFICERS

147. Hon GIZ WATSON to the Minister for Energy:

- (1) What functions are now being filled or have been advertised to be filled by police auxiliary officers?
- (2) What training is now delivered to police auxiliary officers?
- (3) On how many occasions to date have police auxiliary officers used a Taser against a person that was not done in a training context?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. On behalf of the Minister for Energy, I provide the answer in his capacity as the minister representing the Minister for Police —

- (1) The functions currently fulfilled by police auxiliary officers—PAOs—include: a custody role at the Perth watch-house and regional police stations where they provide custodial care to detainees and assist in escorting mental health patients in regional Western Australia; performing a supervisory role at the Perth watch-house at which they manage a shift operation and supervise staff; representing Western Australia Police on the Prisoners Review Board—the offender review unit, or parole—by assessing files and making recommendations on a prisoner's suitability to be considered for parole; as property managers by providing property logistics or courier services to all metropolitan stations and business units; and, assisting the organised crime unit to dismantle clandestine drug laboratories.
- (2) Western Australia Police provides a general course for police auxiliary officers and custody officers at the Western Australia Police Academy. The course curriculum is focused on the following key areas: custody and prisoner management duties, police station and property management-related duties, planning escorts, traffic warden duties, first aid, equal employment opportunities, health and welfare, and critical skills.
- (3) Since 1 July 2010 there has been one occasion when a police auxiliary officer has been required to draw a Taser. On this occasion, the Taser was withdrawn from the holster but not discharged.