

POLICE — ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION

**490. Mrs M.H. ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:**

I refer to the various commitments of the minister's government, including a commitment in *The Sunday Times* of November 2011 and via a media statement of April 2012, to bring in a variety of laws such as those that would protect police involved in pursuit driving; ban novice drivers from using mobile phones, including hands-free use; restrict the number of passengers that a novice driver can carry at night; and ban radar detectors.

- (1) With 18 sitting days before the next state election, when will we see any of these laws?
- (2) Why is this important legislation not a priority?
- (3) Why is the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (Western Australia) Amendment Bill 2012 a higher priority than protecting young people in motor vehicles?

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

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(3) The member has mentioned a number of initiatives and legislative priorities of this government. As mentioned previously in the ministerial statement, I expect to bring into the house next week our legislation covering the management by police of out-of-control gatherings.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** I didn't ask about that.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** With respect to some of the pieces of legislation that the member is referring to —

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** Pursuit driving—how about that?

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland!

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

With regard to pursuit driving, in response to a motion put at the Western Australian Police Union conference in May this year, the government has been in consultation and I have been in consultation also with the Commissioner of Police and the union. I expect to bring something to the house at some future point in time regarding pursuit driving.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** This year?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** What is important to note about pursuit driving is that the police are forced to make split-second decisions in very volatile situations when they are engaging in a pursuit. Legislation such as that takes a great degree of consultation, and it needs to be considered very, very carefully before the government chooses to take a response or change legislation around protections for police officers regarding pursuits. I think that it should be given due consideration. It should also be given the high level of consultation and priority that I have given to it with the Commissioner of Police and the Western Australian Police Union of Workers.

Legislation takes time to draft. It takes time to consult with the relevant authorities. In addition to taking time to consult, we need to ensure that there are no unintended consequences as a result of legislation that we bring to this place. I can give a guarantee to the house that legislation I bring into this place will be well thought through, we will have consulted with all the relevant stakeholders who will be affected by the legislation and the legislation will be acceptable to both houses of Parliament—both the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council—so it has a high potential of being passed through both houses of Parliament.