

POLICE STATIONS — CONDEMNATION OF GOVERNMENT

Motion

MR M. MCGOWAN (Rockingham) [4.00 pm]: I move —

That this house condemns the Barnett government for the impending closure of Ballajura Police Station, its failure to build the Secret Harbour and Carnarvon police stations and its broken election commitment to reopen Gascoyne Junction Police Station.

This motion provides the opportunity for members who have grave concerns about the administration of law and order in their constituencies, in particular what has happened as a consequence of the recent budget, to raise some very important issues for their electorates and what they understood, prior to the election and prior to the budget, to be the policies of the government. This motion provides us with an opportunity to reveal to the house what we were advised was the policy of the government and what the minister said was the policy of the government and to reveal the very poor outcomes for the electorates affected by the state budget. In this motion, we detail four separate communities on which the impact of the state budget on the provision of law and order services has been drastic—all of which, I might add, are located in Labor electorates and have been positively and absolutely victimised by the recent state budget and the decisions that were made as part of the budget process. A number of opposition members who represent these various communities will raise issues about those impacts. I have an understanding with the Leader of the House that this motion will be dealt with in total in the course of approximately an hour. Bearing in mind that understanding, I will not be long in dealing with aspects of this motion relevant to my electorate. I will say that there was an expectation, an understanding and indeed a promise that the state government would provide a new police station at Secret Harbour in the member for Warnbro's electorate, thereby alleviating pressure on Rockingham Police Station, which is in my electorate. Anyone who understands the geography of my community would understand that it is an elongated urban community; it is a long coastal community stretching from where I live in Rockingham Beach all the way down to Golden Bay and Singleton—a distance of 25 to 30 kilometres. Rockingham Police Station is located right at the very northern end of the community, and that is a significant issue for the southern area of my community, which is 25 to 30 kilometres of urban development away from the police station. The former government looked at the police capital works program—admittedly it was brought forward—and planned a police station for the southern suburbs of Rockingham to meet the needs of that part of the community. As I said, we looked at the program. The construction of the police station was brought forward two or three years, from memory, and it was to serve the southern part of an elongated urban community in the southern suburbs of Perth. What happened? After the election, we were naturally concerned that the new police station with additional officers to be based at Secret Harbour in the southern part of the community in the City of Rockingham would be lost. We made inquiries through the local press. The local newspapers took up the issue because it was a matter of concern. A site was purchased, with a sign, and there were drawings, plans and documentation for a new police station in the southern part of Rockingham. It was ready to go to tender. We wanted that to happen. We took it up with the local newspaper. It inquired of the Minister for Police on 7 November 2008, and it received a commitment from him in writing, reported in the local newspaper as follows —

“The Secret Harbour police station is in the forward estimates and will proceed as originally planned,”
Mr Johnson said.

The Minister for Police advised the community of that commitment. What did we find in the budget? The police station is gone. That is a direct broken commitment by this government to our community. It has more of an impact on the member for Warnbro's constituency than on mine, but it still has a significant impact on the people of Rockingham whom I represent. This is an opportunity for me to put on the record that impact on the community. I am sure that the member for Warnbro will go into greater detail, but it is a significant issue for the people of the southern suburbs of Perth. We have lost a police station that was promised by this government for our community. That is why we wanted to use this opportunity to raise what is a very important issue for my community, and I have done so now.

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan) [4.07 pm]: I rise to speak to the motion condemning the Barnett government for the impending closure of Ballajura Police Station, its failure to build the Secret Harbour and Carnarvon police stations and its broken election commitment to reopen the Gascoyne Junction Police Station. The government campaigned heavily on law and order during the last election campaign and it continued to try to make law and order an issue in government. Within nine months of coming into government, it effectively made a decision to close Ballajura Police Station. The decision was made with little or no consultation with local residents or the local community. It is a decision that will impact upon the local community significantly. It has angered and distressed the Ballajura community. Before I move more into the motion, I would like to acknowledge Ian North and the officers based at Ballajura Police Station for the work they have done over the

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years serving the Ballajura community. There will always be people who want better and greater services, but everyone acknowledges that the local police officers' ability to be in touch with the local community, to talk to the local residents and to be active in local community groups are things that all residents have appreciated and respect significantly.

I want to go over a little of the history of the Ballajura Police Station. I understand that last year a new police station for Ballajura was a priority in the police service's capital works program. The police service has a long-term strategic accommodation program that it develops and continually monitors. A new police station was on that program when we left government. The Labor Party made a commitment to build a new police station in Ballajura. It was worth about \$5.5 million. There was a need for a new police station. When I came into government—sorry, when I was elected and we lost government—

Mr R.F. Johnson: Hard to take, isn't it?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It is especially so when the government is closing police stations in my electorate. When I was elected and the new minister took his position, I asked a number of questions about the government's intention of building a new Ballajura Police Station, knowing that there was a distinct priority in the previous strategic accommodation program. I was quite shocked to see that funding for a new Ballajura Police Station had disappeared from that program, and even more shocked to hear on the grapevine that the government was considering closing this vital and essential service for the people of Ballajura. I believe that it is the government's three per cent efficiency dividend and its redirection of funds to other areas that have caused this decision. I believe that if Western Australia Police had the money, not only would the police station remain open, but also a new police station would be built to service the community.

As I said, I heard on the grapevine a number of months ago that the government was considering closing the police station. I came into the Parliament and asked a number of questions and I raised it as a grievance on a number of occasions. Although I do not want to go through it all, needless to say, I do not believe the government was very straight with me, as the member representing the area, on the future of the Ballajura Police Station, and we got absolutely no straight answers. The community was unaware that the government was even considering closing the police station, even though it was already down the path of considering its closure. There was no consultation with the community—absolutely none. As the local member, I believed it was my role to inform the community of the government's proposal and to ensure that the community had the opportunity to provide its views to the government on the prospective decision.

About three weeks ago I began a petition through the Ballajura community. In just under three weeks I have collected 1 600 signatures from the Ballajura community protesting against the impending closure of the Ballajura Police Station. As I said, that was done in under three weeks. In addition, we undertook a postcard campaign, in which residents of the Ballajura community received a postcard that they were invited to send back if they supported the police station. More than 800 postcards were returned within two weeks. That shows the strong sentiment of people in the Ballajura community regarding their local police station. I have reproduced some of the comments from these postcards in my notes. They are as follows—

- Permanent police presence provides a deterrent to crime.
- Our community standards will suffer if we lose our boys in blue.
- Ballajura needs this station.
- I don't want it closed.
- We are a large suburb. By rights we deserve a police station.
- Keep our suburbs safe for our kids and elderly.
- We are sure that 20 000 people who live in Ballajura would agree to keep the police station open.
- You need localised policing for localised problems.
- The Ballajura police station is an important part of the community and should remain open.

As I said, it shows a strong sentiment from the people of Ballajura. I reiterate that there has been no communication and no consultation by the government with the people of Ballajura on this matter—absolutely none.

As I said, it was my role to inform the community of what the government was doing and to try to keep the government across the fact that the community did not want the Ballajura Police Station closed. As part of the community campaign, I also held a community forum on Monday night, which was very well attended. I welcome Margaret Ryan, one of the attendees, who is in the public gallery today. She is very interested in local issues and is active in many community groups. It was a very good forum due to the fact that there was a good attendance by some of the police hierarchy. I express my thanks to Assistant Commissioner Shayne Maines,

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District Superintendent Ian Thomas and Inspector Greg Knott who attended the forum. They stayed for the length of the forum, which went for almost two hours. The only very, very disappointing aspect was the announcement at the forum by the police in attendance that the Ballajura Police Station was to be closed. Although I organised this forum to allow community members to vocalise to the police hierarchy directly that they wanted their police station to remain open, the government had already made the decision to close it. I must say that the community group that attended were angry about it; they were very disappointed. It was not something that I wanted to deliver at my own community forum. I thought it was very, I suppose, bad timing, but also again it demonstrated that this government had no consultation and no communication about this proposal. It was up to me to organise the vehicle for communicating that this decision had been made. As I said, the community wants and needs a police station in Ballajura. I know the Minister for Police will speak on this matter and I hope he addresses this issue seriously today, because it is a very serious issue —

Mr R.F. Johnson: Of course I'll address it seriously.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It would be the first time. It is a very serious issue —

Mr R.F. Johnson: If the member wants to make silly remarks like that, then she does not warrant —

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Oh, come on!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It is a very serious issue. I will be outlining a couple of requests and I hope that the minister takes notes and responds to them when he gets to his feet.

As I said, another claim was made at the forum about the Premier's commitments or comments made in the office of the member for Swan Hills; namely, that the Premier had made a commitment to keep the Ballajura Police Station open. I know that it was put in a letter to the Minister for Police that that claim was made. Again, I welcome any sort of advice or comments that the minister can make on that matter because there is strong feeling from local council members and from some members of the local community who attended the function at the member for Swan Hills' office that the Premier did make a commitment to keep a police station open.

Mr R.F. Johnson: A police station or a police presence?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: A police station.

Mr R.F. Johnson: Well, that is what the member says; I think I've heard something different.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: A permanent police station, as I understand.

Minister, I will sit soon because my colleagues the member for Warnbro and the member for North West want to speak about their own police stations. I will ask the minister three questions. Can the minister reconsider the decision to close the Ballajura Police Station? As I understand, the lease for the current police station expires in September this year. It is not too late to reverse the decision. I think the way that the decision has been made, the way it has been rushed and the lack of communication and consultation mean that it is worthy of reconsideration by the minister and cabinet. At the very minimum, I ask that the minister commit to a permanent policing post in the suburb of Ballajura at the current site of the police station. That to me would be the bare minimum. It would be a place where members of the public could go and inform the local officer about issues in the area and also to have a good community contact. If the minister goes ahead with the closure, I ask that a six-month review be undertaken to analyse and assess the crime and law and order impact of the closure of the police station. One key thing is that the proposal would move the police to Kiara and Ellenbrook. The problem is that there are no public transport links between Ballajura and Kiara. When I was in the shopping centre the other week talking to people about this issue, many people did not know where the Kiara Police Station was and had no idea how to get to it.

Mr R.F. Johnson: I think a lot of the member's constituents —

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The minister will get to speak in a second. I ask that he consider those three points. If the minister wants to take notes so that he does not miss out anything when he stands to speak —

Mr R.F. Johnson: The member can remind me.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I ask the minister to reconsider the decision to close the police station, to commit to maintaining a community policing post in the suburb, and to undertake a six-month formal review to assess the impact of the closure, if the minister goes ahead with it, on law and order and crime in the suburb.

MR V.A. CATANIA (North West) [4.18 pm]: I obviously rise to support the motion. It is extremely disappointing that in the 2009-10 budget there was no Carnarvon police station. I am deeply offended because this project, which I have spoken about on numerous occasions in this house and in the other place, is a very important piece of infrastructure for the people of Carnarvon.

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I have stood in this place many times and I have had the Minister for Regional Development call me a church mouse when I am in government and a lion when I am in opposition. If members have a look at *Hansard* and media reports, it is funny to look back on the work that I and the community of Carnarvon put in to ensuring that the Carnarvon police station and courthouse would be rebuilt and relocated; it was quite staggering. When I look at some of these media reports I have a bit of a chuckle to myself because I cannot believe the amount of work the community put in to ensuring that the Carnarvon police station and justice complex went to the right spot. The motion is directed to the Minister for Police, but I wanted to put on record what I think is quite a compliment from the Minister for Regional Development, who called me a lion in opposition.

Mr R.F. Johnson: A lion?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: A lion—to ensure that this government keeps to its word. He called me a church mouse in government. I came across this media statement —

Survey highlights preferred site for justice complex.

The Member for the Mining and Pastoral Region says a survey he commissioned has given a clear indication of the Carnarvon community's preferred site for the new multi-million dollar courthouse and police complex.

Vincent Catania says he was surprised locals were not consulted over the complex, considering it will be a landmark project.

That was when I was part of the government. I fought hard to ensure that the community got what it wanted. It is quite interesting to see another —

Haase backs pushes to move Carnarvon police station.

The federal Member for Kalgoorlie has supported a local government push to have the Carnarvon police station moved from its waterfront location on the town's main street.

There are more media statements. I wish the Minister for Regional Development was here to listen to this, because it is interesting. Another is —

Ex-shire presidents enter justice complex debate

Three former shire presidents from Carnarvon have met North-West Coastal MLA Fred Riebeling to debate the location of the town's new police station and courthouse.

One of those three ex-shire presidents happened to be the candidate for the North West seat during the 2008 election.

Mr R.F. Johnson: For which party?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: It was the National Party. He supported the move and supported me when fighting against my own party and government to ensure that the community got what it wanted. A speech made by Hon Ken Baston, a member for the Mining and Pastoral Region in the other place, is reported in the *Hansard* of Tuesday, 28 June 2005. This gives some idea of how long this issue has been going for, which is why the community is up in arms about what has been going on and the lack of detail for Carnarvon when it comes to the budget. Hon Ken Baston said —

It is disappointing for the Carnarvon people that no funding has been provided for the Carnarvon police station courthouse. This precinct sits right on the fascine development. It is a prime bit of land. Basically, Carnarvon needs a new police station. The current police station needs to be moved. The Shire of Carnarvon has already purchased land for the police station-courthouse complex to be moved to in the future. Perhaps some funding could be provided for the design and planning stage, which will take about a year to complete. I believe in the order of \$500 000 is needed for that, and the project will cost between \$12 million and \$15 million. That funding is needed not only for a new police station but also for the future aesthetics of Carnarvon if it is to develop as a major tourism town and as a gateway, as everyone keeps saying, to the Ningaloo Reef. Carnarvon and Exmouth are supposedly the two gateways to that reef.

Hon Ken Baston has been very supportive and very vocal in ensuring that the Carnarvon police station and justice complex goes to the right site, yet we have seen the government exclude it from the budget altogether. I again refer to the Minister for Regional Development, who calls me a church mouse in government and a lion in opposition. Looking through these media statements and press releases, I do not see one from the National Party. There is not one press release from the Minister for Regional Development. That great champion of regional development has never put a press release out on this issue. The press release from 15 August 2007 is headed

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“Premier announces site for Carnarvon’s new \$40million Police and Court complex”. I have to read this out, because hopefully it will remind the government how much work was done, how much blood, sweat and tears were put into this, and how many friendships in government were really tested. The press release reads —

The State Government has listened to the Carnarvon community and will build the new \$40million Carnarvon Police and Court complex at the Gascoyne Traders site.

That is, removing it from the fascine, funding the project totally and building it where the people of the community want it. The press release continues —

Premier Alan Carpenter said a number of sites had been considered, however the Traders site was the overwhelming choice of the Carnarvon community and local members Fred Riebeling and Vince Catania.

“A recent readers poll in the Northern Guardian found that 96 per cent favoured the Traders site. This follows on from a survey undertaken last year by local member Vince Catania which found that 87 per cent of people favoured the same site,” Mr Carpenter said.

The Premier said the complex was a State Government election commitment.

There we have it—a local member doing his job of making sure that the community’s views are represented. So that people are quite clear about the survey, I direct-mailed the whole of Carnarvon with a survey offering a choice of four sites. Of the surveys that came back to me, 87 per cent favoured the police station and courthouse being removed from the fascine to go to the Gascoyne Traders site. That was a catalyst for getting the then state government to ensure that it listened to the people. Then there were all the media releases that were made after that, such as one headed “Carnarvon Shire welcomes justice complex”, which states —

The Western Australia Government is expected to announce today that it will build a \$40million police and justice complex in Carnarvon, in the north-west, on a site preferred by the community and local shire.

There is a whole heap more press releases, but I just quickly picked up the first five. They will show members opposite the level of work that a church mouse in government did to ensure that the community was listened to. I wish the Minister for Regional Development was here, because this is a regional issue. It seems to be a common theme in this place that members of the National Party seem to disappear when we talk about regional issues. I am glad that the Minister for Police is here.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: That happens regularly.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Yes, it does happen quite regularly and it is quite concerning, but I think the public is not fooled by that, particularly the people of Carnarvon who participated in the survey and fought hard for this project. Even the National Party’s candidate who ran against me in the elections supported the police station and courthouse. I believe Hon Wendy Duncan, who is now a member for the Mining and Pastoral Region in the other place, is also on record as saying that she supports this vital piece of infrastructure.

The government can talk about the costs blowing out, and I think that costs have gone up a bit from the original \$40 million. Often members will ask whether it would be better to spend that \$40 million on other projects such as redeveloping the fascine wall or shifting the airport. Yes, those projects are good, but if we want private development in Carnarvon, we need to relocate the police station and courthouse away from the fascine so that private developers can be enticed to develop one of the most magical vistas in Carnarvon. We must take advantage of that. I know that the Minister for Police agrees with that, but we also need to listen to what the police are saying. They need a new police station. The Carnarvon Police Station has basically been condemned by the police union. Many times, stickers have been put over the police station where it currently sits. It needs to be relocated. It needs to be built for the sake of police officers as well.

To finish off, members, the motion before us also refers to the Gascoyne Junction Police Station. Gascoyne Junction is a fine place. One of the problems is that, unfortunately, under our watch in government, the Gascoyne Junction Police Station closed. It was an operational issue. The police commissioner decided that Gascoyne Junction Police Station should close. I can recall, and I am sure a few members here will recall, that when the police minister was the opposition spokesperson for police, he accused us of making political decisions. Am I correct, members?

Mr D.A. Templeman: I remember exactly.

Mr P. Papalia: Weekly!

Mr R.F. Johnson: Heaven forbid!

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Mr V.A. CATANIA: One of the election commitments was to reopen six regional police stations that had been closed. I believe that three police stations are on the way to being reopened and three police stations are not—one being the Gascoyne Junction Police Station. I am sure that we will get to the bottom of this. The Minister for Police now says that it is an operational issue, not a political decision, and it will now not reopen.

One member whom I have worked closely with, even though we are on opposite sides, is Hon Ken Baston, member for the Mining and Pastoral Region. I know that I read out a *Hansard* excerpt but it was also interesting to see this press release. It is dated 6 July 2007. I hope he has still got the fire in his belly to convince the police minister to reopen the Gascoyne Junction Police Station. It is headed “Want a Policeman? Call Carnarvon or Mullewa” and states —

“Don’t call us, we’re busy building a \$95 million Police complex in Perth” is the message from Carpenter government to Gascoyne Junction,” said the Hon Ken Baston MLC.

“The decision to close the Gascoyne Junction Police Station is extremely short sighted and another example of the blinkers that the Carpenter government wears when it looks at regional Western Australia ...

Oh my gosh! I shall read on, members —

“All communities deserve a police presence,” said Mr Baston, “and size and economics should be secondary to the social needs of the people who live there.”

The closing of the police station will compromise safety in a very isolated community in addition to taking away an integral part of the social fabric of the town. Removing them takes some heart from the community.

“The nearest police presence will be 160km away in Carnarvon, which is too far away for peace of mind,” said Mr Baston.

We have a member of government supporting the Gascoyne Junction Police Station when he was in opposition. I hope he has still got the fire in his belly to convince his own colleagues to reopen the Gascoyne Junction Police Station.

As I said, I have stood here time and time again and put the case forward. When I was in government, as a member of the other place, and now as the member for North West, I have put the case forward to ensure that Carnarvon gets what it wants. It seems like it has fallen on deaf ears. The minister is going to Carnarvon to discuss this issue and I am sure that we can come to a resolution. But in the meantime I am very disappointed, Minister for Police, that the three members of the National Party are not in the chamber yet again when it comes to regional issues that are important to my seat, North West. They failed to talk about these issues when in opposition and they are failing to do so again in government.

Mr R.F. Johnson: Ballajura and Secret Harbour are hardly regional areas.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I hope that the Minister for Police can convince his coalition partners in this place—I am glad the Premier is here—to take some interest on issues that matter to the people of regional Western Australia.

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro) [4.34 pm]: I rise to endorse and thoroughly support the motion that this house condemns the Barnett government for the impending closure of the Ballajura Police Station, its failure to build the Secret Harbour and Carnarvon police stations and its broken election commitment to reopen Gascoyne Junction Police Station.

If there is any advice that I can offer to those few people who have been in this place on my side for even less time than I, it would be to try to avoid rising to speak on a motion in the wake of the member for Rockingham. Such is the incisive and forensic nature of his mind and his professionalism that invariably I find myself wondering what I am going to talk about after the member for Rockingham has stolen my thunder on the subject matter. Initially, I thought that may be the situation in this case because I wanted to remind the Minister for Police about the statements that he made on 7 November 2008 as reported in the local press in Rockingham and the assurances that he conveyed to the people of Rockingham at that time regarding the Secret Harbour police station and the reliability and trustworthiness of the new government. As the member for Rockingham has already said, the Secret Harbour police station was already in the estimates and the Minister for Police promised that he would proceed as originally planned. I wanted to take some moments to reflect on those statements, as I did in my 25-minute reply to the budget speech, but I will not do that. Instead, I will try to anticipate what the Minister for Police will say today. I probably have some insight into that because the minister did rise following my response to the budget speech, and he made some comments on my speech.

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When the Minister for Police stands to speak on the issue of Secret Harbour police station—if he has the courage, and I am not sure about that—and the statements that he made on 7 November 2008 and his unequivocal commitment to the people of Rockingham that the Secret Harbour police station would go ahead, the minister should address why he misled the people of Rockingham at that time, but I suspect that, as is invariably the case, the minister may try and weasel out of it by suggesting that it was the early days of the government. In fact, by way of interjection, he suggested that it was only two months after taking office that he made that statement. That is not entirely correct, but that was the suggestion that he made the last time this subject matter was debated in this place. The minister may suggest that it was early days when he made this commitment, this promise, this assurance to the people of Secret Harbour and more widely to the people of Warnbro, Port Kennedy, Golden Bay, Singleton and Baldivis, and also to the people in the northern part of Rockingham who would benefit from the new police station and the additional police officers to staff that police station. The minister will suggest that somehow it is okay to mislead the public and the voters of Western Australia if it is in the early days of a government! If a government has had only a couple of months in office and if a minister has been sworn in for only a few months—never mind that he is one of the most experienced members in this house, and never mind that he served in the previous Liberal government as a minister and knew the sort of commitment he was making to the people of Rockingham and the credence they would accord to his statements—the minister will say, possibly, that people should have known to ignore him because he was operating in thought-bubble mode in the early days of his office.

I am trying to anticipate what else the minister will say. I suspect the next thing he will say is that somehow Secret Harbour police station was not an appropriate commitment by the former government, and that somehow it was an election offering in a desperate attempt to curry favour with the people of the then Peel electorate in the hope that the Labor Party might benefit from making a promise that would be in forward estimates. I can tell the Minister for Police that the Labor Party and its candidate at that time did not require any promises of a police station to get over the line against the Liberal candidate. There was no drama there, minister! There was no need to make any promises, but we did. We brought forward a police station that was already in the forward estimates for southern Rockingham. It just happened to be in Port Kennedy. That commitment for Port Kennedy was made on the advice of the police and well in advance of the election, but at a time before the expansion of Rockingham to the southern suburbs. These are now some of the fastest growing suburbs in the state of Western Australia and are desperately in need of their own police station to ensure not only a police presence on the ground, but also police activity and shorter response times.

It is an irrefutable, undeniable fact that the southern part of Rockingham and the northern suburbs of Mandurah are geographically separated from the nearest police stations in Rockingham, Kwinana or Mandurah. Police cannot physically get there faster unless they fly in by helicopter; I know the Minister for Police is buying one helicopter, but he will have to buy two more—one for Mandurah and one for Rockingham—to ensure that the local coppers can respond to a call in an appropriate time, conduct their task, get back to their home police station and ensure that their officer in charge knows that they have returned to the station and are able to respond to other calls in other geographically separated sections of their patch. If the minister has the gall to make that outrageous and incredibly unsubstantiated claim that there will somehow be a better service provided by large, centrally located police stations, will he please explain how that will improve the response time for coppers who have to drive for 20 to 30 minutes just to get to the incident, conduct their task and return to the police station?

This government has cancelled—it is no longer threatened or delayed—the Secret Harbour police station, which was to serve the suburbs of southern Rockingham and northern Mandurah. This has happened despite the fact that the previous government not only committed funds, but also had spent \$2 million on acquiring land and completing the planning. The land had been levelled and they were actually going to go to tender, and the current government has cancelled the project so that it can put the \$8 million towards funding the information and communications technology program. I reckon that could very easily be funded by taking some of the \$166 million that the government is spending to establish a road to nowhere through the threatened Beeliar wetlands, which will accord no benefit to anybody. No-one has called for that road to be constructed, but the minister is going to do it just because he is stubborn and is ignorant of the people of Western Australia. He does not care what the electorate wants and he is arrogant.

Mr C.J. Barnett: That was a nasty finish!

MR R.F. JOHNSON (Hillarys — Minister for Police) [4.42 pm]: I feel as though I have been bashed about the head and everywhere else with a feather duster! I am arrogant, nasty and all sorts of things! Jeez, I have had a few descriptions in my time in this place, but that really was mean!

Mr M.P. Whitely: You're just a non-event!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: My friend the member for Bassendean does not even reach the status of a non-event! He is insignificant in this place! His mates do not even like him; even his colleagues do not like him! He has always

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been the outcast, so why he makes these stupid, insidious remarks, I do not know! He is a persistent interjector, and if the Acting Speaker wants this debate to be over soon, she needs to call him to order! Somebody needs to, because I am sick to death of hearing his constant interjections.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mrs L.M. Harvey): I call the member for Bassendean to order. The minister has the call.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I appreciate that.

The previous four speakers have voiced what I am sure are their genuine concerns about their electorates, and I was happy to listen to them. What I am not happy to listen to is some diatribe from another member who has no interest in this area whatsoever.

I will deal with the comments of the member for West Swan first, because she was the first person to speak on this motion about the closure of the Ballajura Police Station. I am aware that she held a public meeting on Monday of course, although the member did not invite me. If she had, I might have come along, but that is beside the point.

Ms R. Saffioti: You've never answered any of the questions I've asked.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Then perhaps a public forum would have been a good place to ask me questions, and I would have certainly answered them. I would have loved to have gone for a cup of tea and a biscuit!

Ms R. Saffioti: I saw you were a bit busy on the news that night; that's why I didn't invite you!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I am never too busy to listen to my colleagues' concerns, I assure the member! I am aware that the member had about 60 people at the meeting; is that right?

Ms R. Saffioti: No. There were about 100 people there for my speech.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: There were 100 people?

Ms R. Saffioti: Yes.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I will not challenge the member on that number, but I was told there were about 60 people there and that included quite a few police officers, which I was glad to hear. I appreciate the member's comments about the police officers' attendance at the meeting.

What was announced on Monday night was that the Commissioner of Police had made a final decision to close that specific station.

Several members interjected.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I am happy to talk to the member for West Swan but I will not suffer the sorts of interjections that I am getting from both sides of the house. I am happy to answer all the member's questions.

Ms R. Saffioti: So, you want me to protect you!

Several members interjected.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I need somebody to protect me from a couple of feather dusters!

Ms R. Saffioti: Okay; member for Cannington and member for Bassendean!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The member for West Swan should pull them into line, as I have limited time and part of the deal was that we would deal with this matter as quickly as possible.

Ms R. Saffioti: Okay; keep going.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The situation is this: as the member for West Swan knows, Ballajura Police Station is not up to the right standard for police officers to work in. The member for West Swan would agree with me on that, I am sure.

Ms R. Saffioti: It has been okay for the past number of years. The people of Ballajura are asking: if it has been okay over the past number of years, why isn't it okay now?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: It has been run-down enormously in the past 15 years. The member for West Swan has visited it and I have visited it. I must tell the member for West Swan that the police tell me that it is not up to the standard that they expect their officers to work in. The holding cell is in the general office where everybody is.

Ms R. Saffioti: I know, but —

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I do not and they certainly do not think that is suitable. The facilities for holding people there are not up to the standard that is required.

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Ms R. Saffioti: But it is not the community's fault. You are actually penalising the community for successive governments not giving it —

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Of course it is not the community's fault; I would not for one minute say that it was. I am saying that it is the Labor Party's fault. Why did the Labor Party in seven and half years of government not replace that station at least a year ago when it needed replacing? It did not do so because it was not a priority.

Several members interjected.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: It became a priority —

Ms R. Saffioti: We didn't close it.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I am not going to try to be heard over a barrage of interjections on this matter. This is a serious issue for the member for West Swan.

Ms R. Saffioti: Yes.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I want to give her the answers. The member may not like what I have to say, but that does not mean that her colleagues have to barrage me with interjections.

I suggest that this matter became a priority for the member for West Swan when she became the candidate for the seat. She was chief of staff to the former Premier at the time and would have known that that police station was running down and down. Therefore, the member for West Swan, as the prospective candidate for that seat, should have done something a lot earlier.

Mr W.J. Johnston: She is!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Of course, yes. As soon as the member for West Swan became the candidate, she thought she had to do something about this because it is a big issue in Ballajura, but she knows that the station is not up to standard. The Commissioner of Police told me early on in the piece that Ballajura is one of the police stations that he desperately needed to close. He said that he was not prepared to sign a fresh lease in September and put his officers back there for another five years, which is the minimum lease he could get; that was definitely not the answer. The Commissioner of Police therefore said to me that he would prefer to close that particular station as a fully functional police station and move those resources—about 80 per cent to Kiara and 20 per cent to Ellenbrook.

I have been assured that the police presence in Ballajura and surrounding suburbs will actually be enhanced by the actions that the police commissioner is taking. The member for West Swan and I know that regional areas need small, independent police stations because there are large areas to cover. However, the metropolitan area does not need umpteen tiny police stations. The best efficiencies cannot be had out of tiny police stations. Every station that is opened and maintained must be staffed with all sorts of people and officers. They have to do a lot of paperwork and clerical work and a lot of other work in those little stations. In moving those officers to a larger station, a lot of that work will be taken on by other people. That will therefore free up those officers to be in patrol cars and out in the community. I am assured that there will be far more patrols in that area than there are at present. If that is the case, to me a higher police presence is what is needed. The commissioner and I are aware of the crime statistics not only in the member for West Swan's electorate, but also in other electorates. It does not matter whether the seat is a Liberal or Labor seat, as far as I am concerned I want crime to decrease. I will do everything in my power to ensure that that happens, whether it be in my seat or the member for West Swan's seat. I promise the member for West Swan that I want criminals caught and I want hoons caught. I am aware of the concerns that were raised at her meeting on Monday evening. I am aware of all those concerns because they were reported back to me. I am sure that the member saw one or two people there who she guessed would have sent me information. I did not send any staff there. A local person who knows me quite well emailed me and told me what went on at the meeting. He recognises that there is always a concern in the community and that everyone would love to have a police station located at the end of their road; of course they would. I accept that that would probably make people feel safer. However, at the end of the day, it would not do that and it does not create a safer environment. What creates a safer environment is having a lot more police officers who can respond very quickly patrolling the streets. Very often the officers who respond to crimes committed in Ballajura and its surrounding suburbs come from Kiara. They already do patrols in Kiara. A lot of the member's constituents who need to renew a licence, such as a firearms licence, through a police station go to Mirrabooka because they do not think that it is too far away from them. The problem is that the police districts are divided in such a way that Mirrabooka Police Station is not responsible for Ballajura. If the districts were slightly altered, the member could benefit by getting a police response from Mirrabooka and a police response from Kiara. That is something I am discussing with the Commissioner of Police. That would double the efficiency of both those areas. However, at the end of the day, that is the commissioner's decision. I am trying to help the member and

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the people of Ballajura and its surrounding suburbs. I promise the member that that is not stupid rhetoric; it is the truth. I want to help people whenever I can. The member asked whether I could give a commitment to keep it open. I cannot do that.

Ms R. Saffioti: I asked the minister whether he could retain the community policing post at the existing site of the station.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I do not know about retaining it at the existing site of the station. Let me put it this way: I believe that the commissioner will move his officers out of that station pretty quickly. In the meantime, I understand that he will leave a front desk there so that there will be a police presence.

Ms R. Saffioti: Is that your commitment? Are you going to agree to that commitment?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I cannot give the member that commitment. I can give a commitment that I will discuss it with the commissioner and I will let him know that that is what I would like to see done, at least until the lease runs out, so that there is a police post there. I will also ask him about the possibility of providing a small police post and whether that would work. I will give the member that commitment. I will discuss that with the commissioner but at the end of the day it is his decision, not mine. The commissioner and I discuss things. Often he is happy to assist in making happen things that I would like to see done and I am happy to assist him do some of the things that he wants to do. We have a good working relationship, and that is what I want. What was the member's other point?

Ms R. Saffioti: A six-month review post-closure to assess the impact of the closure on local crime statistics and law and order issues in the area.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I will not commit to a six-month review because that is too soon. However, I will commit to look at the crime and antisocial behaviour figures for Ballajura and the surrounding areas over the next six to 12 months. I would prefer to have a 12-month review. I will also try to encourage the commissioner to send in the Burglar Beware squad because that will show the burglars in the member's area that we mean business. I am happy to try to encourage him to do that, and that would assist the member's community.

Ms R. Saffioti: Of the 15 officers, how many are you transferring to Kiara, as opposed to Ellenbrook?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: As I understand it, about 80 per cent are going to Kiara and 20 per cent to Ellenbrook.

Ms R. Saffioti: Even though Ellenbrook will not be covering Ballajura. It will pick up Cullacabardee.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: It will predominantly be Kiara. Do not forget that officers from Mirrabooka, when needed, will cross their district boundary line and go into Ballajura.

Ms R. Saffioti: I have been told that the north metro versus the south metro have different frequencies, so there is not a lot of coverage. They cannot go into the other district because they use a different frequency. I was told by the local police that Mirrabooka is not being served by the Ballajura police.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I have to be honest, but I have been told that, very often, when there is a serious incident —

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mrs L.M. Harvey): Order, members! There is a lot of background noise in the chamber, and Hansard is having difficulty hearing the minister.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I have been told by senior police that, very often, when there is a serious incident and a large number of police officers are required, they come from Mirrabooka. That happens on a regular basis, whenever a serious incident occurs. I will check up on that, though, with the commissioner, and if the situation is any different from what I am telling the member now, I will let her know for sure.

I now want to deal with the fact that the former government had put some money in the forward estimates for a new police station. However, that is the sort of thing that is usually announced in the year before an election or just before an election. That is what very often happens. That is what happened in the member's party time and again. The Labor Party was very good at putting up signs saying that this is the site for this particular —

Ms R. Saffioti: But you closed it! There is no comparison with what you are saying now.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: If the member had not wanted that police station to be closed, she should have organised for the construction of a new police station. When I say "the member", I am not saying as the member for West Swan, because the member has not been in that seat long enough. I am saying that as the former chief of staff to the then Premier, the member should have organised for the former government to build a new police station there—not because she was going to be the candidate for that area, but because she believed there was a need for a new police station to be built there. The member should have done something about that, but she did not.

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Mr W.J. Johnston: You are in government now. What decisions are you making?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Did the member not understand what I have just said? It is being closed down.

Mr W.J. Johnston: Yes. You are closing it. That is your decision.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Look, my friend; I am addressing a concerned member. This has nothing to do with the member for Cannington. It is not his area. I am not going to get into an argument with the member for Cannington. I am not going to take his incessant interjections.

Mr W.J. Johnston: You are a disgrace! You are a complete embarrassment!

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Cannington! The minister has the call.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I think I have said everything I need to say to the member for West Swan.

Mr P. Papalia: Are you going to get to my police station?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Of course I am. If the member could keep some of his colleagues quiet and put them back on their leash, I would be able to deal with that in the time that the manager of opposition business wants me to deal with it in. Okay. I am happy to take on board the matter raised by the member for West Swan, and I will carry through with what I have said I will do.

I turn now to Secret Harbour police station. There was some funding for that in the budget. I accept that I made some comments about that matter to the local newspaper on 7 November. I accept that. I did that because when I was asked whether there was any money in the forward estimates for a police station at Secret Harbour, I got my people to check the forward estimates, and there was some money in the budget for that.

Mr P. Papalia: There was \$10 million.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Yes.

Mr P. Papalia: But you know that I wrote to you prior to that. That is why the story was raised. It was because of my letter. You never responded to that letter. The way I got a response was in the media.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I respond to every letter, my friend.

Mr P. Papalia: Perhaps that is true, minister, but I did not get a response. I got a response in the media. The suggestion was made that, by doing that, I had somehow misled the people of Rockingham by saying that Secret Harbour police station was under threat. However, in reality we were quite perceptive—the member for Rockingham and I—when we were starting to get concerned about this matter way back in November, and you confirmed that in the media.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: When the media asked me, I checked the budget papers, and there was \$10 million in the forward estimates for a police station to be built in the member's area. The member accepts that that announcement about a police station in Secret Harbour was made during the time that the member was seeking election to this place.

Mr P. Papalia: I'm quite proud of that fact!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I have to ask, being a cynical person, why was that announcement made?

Mr P. Papalia: Would you like me to answer that or are you going to stop me from answering?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The member can give me the answer in a minute, but let me finish first. The member did not take any interjections from me—none at all—so give me the courtesy —

Mr P. Papalia: I had less time! You have an hour!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The member can take as long as he likes. I am not going to take an hour. I am on a time frame the same as the member, but I have to respond to three different people. I will tell the member for Warnbro that the police told me they never wanted a police station at Secret Harbour.

Mr P. Papalia: That is interesting because the same police gave advice prior to the election that Secret Harbour was an appropriate site.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: To whom did they give that advice? Did they give that advice to the member for Warnbro? He was only a candidate during the election campaign and the police were hardly likely to give him advice.

Mr P. Papalia: It was the then police minister, with whom I have a very close relationship, who told me. He came down to announce the Secret Harbour police station.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I am sure that he did and I am sure that he saw it as a great opportunity during the election campaign to say, "We will have a new police station in Secret Harbour, thanks to our wonderful government and a great candidate." That is what he would have done.

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Mr P. Papalia: All of that is true.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Very little of it is true. In fact, none of it is true. First, the previous government was a lousy government; secondly, the member for Warnbro was not a great candidate; and, thirdly, there will not be a police station in Secret Harbour.

Mr P. Papalia: Why did we get a one per cent swing towards us when we had been the incumbents for seven years?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I will tell the member why.

Several members interjected.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I advise the manager of opposition business that I am doing my best. It is important to me that I get my points on the record, because members opposite have done that.

The truth of the matter is that it was a bit of a stunt during the election campaign in the Warnbro electorate. The police told me that they never wanted a police station in Secret Harbour. I understand that money had been transferred from a proposed police station in Port Kennedy to Secret Harbour.

When I made the comments in the local paper I did so in good faith, because the forward estimates indicated that money had been transferred from Port Kennedy to Secret Harbour. That was on 7 November. We had been in government barely two months at that time. The government was facing a situation in which, all of a sudden, the international financial crisis, which had an effect on police as well, tumbled into place and we had to look at the whole situation very seriously. The police told me that a police station in Secret Harbour was not a priority for them. I will talk about the police hubs, because that is important.

Mr P. Papalia: What does the government intend to do with the land that was purchased?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I imagine that the land will be sold and the proceeds will go into the police fund. They will need that money. I will have to check on this, but I imagine that the savings on not building that particular police station and probably the proceeds from the sale of the land will be used for the system of network that the member for Warnbro referred to, which is absolutely essential. The information and communications technology requirements are actually critical to the police at the moment. Without a state-of-the-art communications system all the police stations in the world would not function properly. A lot of the current technology is out of date and, quite frankly, that is because it has been neglected for seven and a half years. The previous Labor government could have done something about that. It did not provide any funding for ICT. Communications in the police service is the most critical area of need. The former minister knows that. Members are aware that Tardis is now being used within the police service. Without the latest communications system, police officers cannot do their job properly when they are out and about.

The beauty of ICT and the larger hubs is that more police officers will be patrolling in their vehicles and they will be able to respond very quickly to crimes that are being committed and antisocial behaviour. They will have all that information in their vehicles. That is seen as more critical than some small police stations.

At the end of the day, the beauty of ICT is that it works 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A lot of the smaller police stations open only between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm or 10.00 am and 5.00 pm. They might look good, but are they functional and do they allow police officers to operate in the best possible way? I do not think so. I am not a great lover of small police stations, other than in country areas. I much prefer the bigger hub system under which a lot more police officers going out and about can be controlled. I do not want police officers to be stuck behind desks. I do not want police officers to do jobs that public servants can do. I want police officers to be out there in their vehicles on the front line, responding as quickly as they possibly can to crimes that have been committed.

I think that the announcement about the Secret Harbour police station was a bit of a political stunt. I have taken advice from the police, and they say that it is not a preferred option to have the station there. They were not supportive of it being located there when it was announced by the Labor Party during my friend the member for Warnbro's election campaign. It might have been good for the member. I know that when a person is standing as a candidate, particularly a brand-new fresh candidate in a by-election, it is great to be able to announce that we are going to have a hospital here and a police station there—all these wonderful facilities. It is great, because obviously candidates think that it will buy them votes. However, I am not a great believer in that. At the end of the day, I think people have more sense than that, and they see through those sorts of empty promises.

Let us now get on to the Carnarvon police and justice complex. Where is my good friend the member for North West? He is in the chair. I thought for a minute he had deserted me. I will not talk to the member directly while he is in the chair as Acting Speaker as that is not appropriate, but I will talk about the comments that he has made as the member for North West when he has been in his position in the chamber. As the member is aware, the replacement of the Carnarvon Police Station was originally funded an amount of \$4.25 million, I am told, in

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the 2004-05 state budget. Due to prolonged delays with site identification, I am told that the approved budget for WA Police has now been increased to \$12.5 million. The project scope has increased to include a courthouse and a juvenile justice centre. Therefore, it is not just a police station; it is quite a complex. I have nothing against that. In fact, I think it is probably a good idea. Certainly, I know that my colleague the Attorney General and Minister for Corrective Services has an interest in this; of course he does. I have been told that the former government had endorsed the acquisition of a site owned by the Shire of Carnarvon—the Gascoyne Traders site, which is the one that the member has been talking about, on the corner of Robinson Street and Babbage Island Road. Unfortunately, the site soil and groundwater is contaminated with diesel fuel. I am sure that if the Acting Speaker were sitting in his place, he would probably be shaking his head, or he might be nodding; I do not know. That is the difficulty. That is why it would have been nice for somebody else to be in the chair, because the member and I could have had some dialogue. However, that is the information that I have been given.

I am also told that the shire verbally agreed to arrange remediation of the site, including the removal of contaminated soil and the monitoring of the groundwater. I am also advised that the WA Police scope remains unchanged. However, delays have resulted in increased cost escalation beyond the current budget, which, of course, is a concern for me and for everybody. I am also advised that the indicative advice indicates that the revised cost of the police station is likely to be approximately \$15 million, which is \$2.5 million above the existing budget. Upon receipt of formal advice from the shire regarding the site remediation program and resolution of the Department of the Attorney General and Department of Corrective Services scope, the current cost estimate, including the site acquisition cost, and program will be updated. I think that the people involved are waiting for advice from the shire about the site remediation, so that is a matter that the member for North West and I may well talk about when I go to the north west, have a cup of tea with him and discuss these very important issues. I have told the member that I am very happy to do that, and I will certainly listen to him and to the shire.

I am advised that the early indications are that all three agencies will require additional funding to address scope changes and cost escalation pressures. I am sure that the member is aware of that as well. Until funding issues are resolved, the short-term accommodation issues at Carnarvon Police Station will be addressed through the WA Police minor works and maintenance programs to ensure that service delivery is maintained. The service is being maintained, although obviously not to the standard that we would perhaps all like. However, as we work through these issues I am hopeful that that will happen. WA Police has assessed its projects and re-prioritised its proposed funding from construction to ICT because, once again, those ICT requirements are, as I said, absolutely essential. In fact, senior police have described the ICT funding requirement as critical.

I have promised to be brief and I hope that I have covered everything. Obviously, I would like to keep my commitment to the member for North West to meet with him and the shire president and anybody else who is interested. I am more than happy to talk these things through. The member for North West's suggestion of a possible avenue forward did whet my appetite; however, that is something about which I think we will need to talk when I visit the north west. I would need a commitment in writing from the shire about the verbal suggestion the member for North West has put to me. The member will have to get that organised before I visit the north west. If the solution covers areas of interest to my colleague, the Attorney General and Minister for Corrective Services, I will have to discuss a possible way forward with him. Everybody accepts that we have to overcome some problems, but we are in the business of trying to overcome problems and therefore I will give a commitment to try to do just that. I am here to help; I am from the government.

The Gascoyne Junction police station is one other area that I wish to quickly speak about. I know that the manager of opposition business —

A member interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr V.A. Catania): Perhaps the minister could speak a little louder; I think members on my left are finding it difficult to hear.

Mr A.P. O'Gorman: When you were in opposition we never had any trouble hearing from you. You used to shout it out, but now you are keeping it very quiet. You are keeping it to yourself. Come on, member for Hillarys, speak up!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: No; it is that, unfortunately, my voice is going. For those members who cannot hear me, I have to say that I have the same problem when I hear mumbling from back there by way of interjection. It is a two-way street! I will certainly speak loud enough for members to hear and if they cannot hear, they must please tell me.

The information that I have about Gascoyne Junction police station is, as members would know, not about its reopening. Our election commitment was to reopen regional police stations and \$8 million was committed over the forward estimates period. The Liberal Party committed to reopening the police stations at Cranbrook, Dumbleyung and Wickelby by investing the resources required to meet the cost of refurbishing those premises

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and the ongoing cost of operating those stations. The government has provided \$2 million in 2009-10 and remains committed to reopening those stations. Members should remember that the former Labor government made the decision to close six country police stations, not us. I asked WA Police to conduct a review of the 2008 police station closures. That review identified three areas that require increased police service delivery since the closure of those six police stations; accordingly, the Wickiepin, Dumbleyung and Cranbrook stations will be reopened.

The evaluation of statistical data indicates that the impact on the former Gascoyne Junction subdistrict has been minimal, with most activity occurring at the Burringurrah Aboriginal community. The policing of Gascoyne Junction is being undertaken by the Carnarvon police subdistrict on a needs basis—something of which I am sure the member for North West is aware. I am also told that a three-day patrol is undertaken on a monthly basis—weather permitting. That patrol travels to Gascoyne Junction, Mt Augustus and the Burringurrah Aboriginal community for licensing and liaison duties as required. Obviously, we would like to see more of a presence in that area. I will see whether there is any possibility of that. I am happy to talk with the member for North West. If he can identify the serious areas of concern, I am very happy to talk to the commissioner about them. I have not been able to give the member great news. I will try to be as helpful as I possibly can about the issues raised today.

I conclude by saying that I obviously made comments about Secret Harbour police station on 7 November. Other comments were also made. The police and the government have had to look very seriously at reprioritising a lot of the infrastructure and facilities that would have been very nice to have under normal circumstances to ensure that the funds go to where they are most needed during these hard economic times. Let us hope that in the next year or two the world economic situation gets a lot better and that has an advantageous effect on WA. If we have more funds, we can do more things. At the moment we are running a reasonably tight ship. There is an absolute commitment that we will not put public safety at risk. I am very confident that the extra police officers we have promised and the former government promised will go a long way towards trying to reduce crime and protect the community.

With those words—I think I have kept to my side of the bargain of concluding the debate within an hour and a quarter—I will now take my seat. I finally say that there is no way in the world that the government or this side of the house would agree with the motion put forward because we do not believe that we should be condemned by the Labor Party. In fact, we think that we should be condemning the Labor Party for not addressing these issues in the seven and a half years that it was in government instead of leaving us with the headache of having to make good all the bad things that it did through its lack of decision and lack of commitment.

Question put and a division taken with the following result —

Ayes (26)

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Ms L.L. Baker | Mr W.J. Johnston | Mr P. Papalia | Mr A.J. Waddell |
| Ms A.S. Carles | Mr J.C. Kobelke | Mr J.R. Quigley | Mr P.B. Watson |
| Mr A.J. Carpenter | Mr F.M. Logan | Ms M.M. Quirk | Mr M.P. Whitely |
| Mr V.A. Catania | Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan | Mr E.S. Ripper | Mr B.S. Wyatt |
| Mr R.H. Cook | Mr M. McGowan | Mrs M.H. Roberts | Mr D.A. Templeman (<i>Teller</i>) |
| Ms J.M. Freeman | Mr M.P. Murray | Ms R. Saffioti | |
| Mr J.N. Hyde | Mr A.P. O’Gorman | Mr C.J. Tallentire | |

Noes (30)

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mr P. Abetz | Dr E. Constable | Dr G.G. Jacobs | Mr D.T. Redman |
| Mr F.A. Alban | Mr M.J. Cowper | Mr R.F. Johnson | Mr A.J. Simpson |
| Mr C.J. Barnett | Mr J.H.D. Day | Mr A. Krsticevic | Mr M.W. Sutherland |
| Mr I.C. Blayney | Mr J.M. Francis | Mr W.R. Marmion | Mr T.K. Waldron |
| Mr J.J.M. Bowler | Mr B.J. Grylls | Mr P.T. Miles | Dr J.M. Woollard |
| Mr I.M. Britza | Dr K.D. Hames | Ms A.R. Mitchell | Mr J.E. McGrath (<i>Teller</i>) |
| Mr T.R. Buswell | Mrs L.M. Harvey | Dr M.D. Nahan | |
| Mr G.M. Castrilli | Mr A.P. Jacob | Mr C.C. Porter | |

Question thus negatived.