

MISUSE OF DRUGS AMENDMENT (SEARCH POWERS) BILL 2016

**477. Mr F.A. ALBAN to the Minister for Police:**

Constituents in my electorate will welcome today's announcement of new laws to help WA Police target methamphetamine dealers and traffickers. Could the minister please advise the house how these new laws will help police?

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

I thank the member for Swan Hills for his question and his interest in policing matters. The member for Swan Hills is most interested in ensuring that police have all the tools they need to take methamphetamine off the streets. Part of the government's strategy to assist police in having the tools they need to remove meth from our streets is the legislation I introduced into Parliament earlier today. Notwithstanding the need for this additional legislation and this additional ability that police will have if the legislation goes through this house, obviously with the support of the opposition, police have seized over 575 kilograms of methamphetamine from our streets and charged over 430 offenders.

**Mr M. McGowan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you. Just through the Chair. Let's go.

**Mr M. McGowan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition! Let's go. Come on.

**Mr M. McGowan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** When this legislation goes through—legislation that the government has been working on for some time—it will enable senior police officers of superintendent or above to declare an area a suspected methamphetamine or drug transit route. Once that declaration is made, the police officers in those locations will have the ability to stop and search vehicles and to locate drugs using drug detector dogs or drug detection equipment in order to seize those packages and take the methamphetamine off our streets. In addition, the legislation will allow police to go into our freight distribution centres unannounced because the freight distribution companies are unhappy that they may be unsuspecting drug couriers. They receive parcels that are sealed. They take them from A to B. They deliver those parcels to consumers and they have no capacity whatsoever to open those parcels and determine what is inside. Police officers using drug detection equipment —

**Mr F.M. Logan** interjected.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Are you right there? All the searches that they do now —

**Mr F.M. Logan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cockburn.

**Mr J.E. McGrath** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for South Perth. I have been pretty lenient. It is getting tiresome. People are talking to one another. We are not making progress. Through the Chair, please.

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

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the second time.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** This is the kind of approach that the opposition has to law and order matters in Western Australia and this is why the community —

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Sit down. Right, now —

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

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Willagee, I call you to order for the first time. I just stood up. Minister, I asked you to talk through the Chair. You do not talk through the Chair. Member for Girrawheen, I do not want to hear you shout out again. I want this to now proceed.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** The important aspect of this legislation that cannot be understated is that it will protect our remote Aboriginal communities from the drug traffickers who are targeting those communities —

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland, I call you to order for the third time.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** The elders in these communities, particularly the remote communities—I have visited many of them—are very concerned about the impact that methamphetamines are having or could have on their communities, particularly those communities along the border of Western Australia, the Northern Territory and South Australia. These communities are being targeted by drug traffickers who know there are vulnerable people there whom they can get hooked on this drug. It takes only two or three people on a meth rampage in a small community to have a significant negative impact on the entire community and to cause mayhem. Those areas do not necessarily have the resources to deal with some of these issues so this legislation will allow for police officers to declare the routes into those remote communities suspected drug transit routes and will enable police to stop and search vehicles coming into those communities and seize the methamphetamine.

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order now for the third time. Minister, you have 10 seconds.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** We already had support from remote communities like Pandanus Park that have said, “We welcome this legislation. We want it. We want to ensure meth can’t come into our communities.” I hope the opposition supports the legislation. The member for Midland said it has been rushed. If she had been paying attention, she would know that we have been working on it since February 2015. I announced that we were starting to draft this legislation in August 2015.

**The SPEAKER:** I think I said that you were to wind up. Have you finished?

**Mrs L.M. Harvey:** I have one sentence.

**The SPEAKER:** Right. Next question.