

POLICE — TELECOMMUNICATIONS BLACKOUT — KIMBERLEY

945. Hon KEN BASTON to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

I refer to the ABC online Kimberley news article “Telstra outage causes 20hr communications blackout affecting mobile phones, internet in northern WA”, which was published online on 16 August. In the event of a similar mobile network outage, has the WA Police Force identified alternative ways in which people can directly contact their local police station?

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Environment, I advise that the following information has been provided by the Minister for Police.

The Western Australia Police Force advises that police stations can be contacted on telephone landlines. Landlines were not affected by recent mobile phone and internet issues in northern Western Australia. Additionally, station opening hours can be extended, and messages can be put out on local radio stations and social media advising alternative methods of contact.