

POLICE — CRIME RATES — MANDURAH AND PEEL

800. Dr K.D. HAMES to the Minister for Police:

The minister recently attended a forum with business owners from across the Mandurah and Peel regions to discuss their law and order concerns. Can the minister please update the house on how police are working with the community across these regions to reduce crime?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Dawesville for the question and for his interest always in community safety matters in his region.

Last Friday morning I was very privileged to attend the Safer Mandurah and the Peel Local Business Breakfast Forum, jointly hosted by the City of Mandurah, WA Police and the Peel Chamber of Commerce and Industry. I attend these sorts of forums regularly. They provide an opportunity for business owners and community members to raise issues about community safety with police, and for police, local government, business and members of the community to find ways that they can work proactively together to ensure that there is a safer environment for people to operate their businesses and for the community in general. The event was very well attended, member for Dawesville. The member will appreciate that this forum arose out of our regional cabinet meeting in Mandurah last April. A number of business owners raised issues with me about safety in the Smart Street Mall and the Mandurah shopping area. Out of that discussion, we undertook to do some work with local policing teams to try to drive crime down through the Mandurah area and to provide some solutions. The local policing teams started to put together the things they do best, including some local action targeting prolific priority offenders. The member for Dawesville will be very pleased to know that between January and August this year, the Mandurah LPT charged 859 people with 1 561 offences, which is more offences and more persons charged than during the entire 2015 calendar year. The Mandurah LPT has been very, very active under the care of its new officer in charge. From January to August this year compared with the same time last year, we had a 17 per cent reduction in the number of burglaries. There has been a 30 per cent reduction in car theft.

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I know the member does not like it when I talk about police doing a great job, but I will continue to do so in this place. There has been a 68 per cent reduction in graffiti offences, down to seven reported offences in the period from January to August this year. I was very pleased to stand alongside police to report back to the Mandurah community and businesses on the great policing effort that has been put in place and the effect that police have had in driving crime down. I know the member for Mandurah will be pleased to hear this: I am very pleased to announce that police have said that they will now put foot patrols in place during the summer period through the Smart Street Mall and along the Mandurah foreshore just to make sure they keep the pressure on those prolific priority offenders so they do not continue to target that foreshore area and so the area can be preserved for the amenity of visitors and the enjoyment of locals, and to ensure that homes and businesses are safer. I am very pleased that the forum was convened. I congratulate the Peel Chamber of Commerce and Industry, WA Police, the City of Mandurah and all those business owners in the Mandurah CBD who have worked so proactively with police to get this tremendous outcome for the community.