

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AMENDMENT BILL 2014

Second Reading

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Police) [3.41 pm]: Other options such as holding pods or rooms where the door can be shut or locked can also be utilised, particularly when the arrested suspect may only be in police custody for a very short period of time.

Further, it should be noted that this issue has recently been considered as part of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee's report "In Safe Custody — Inquiry into Custodial Arrangements in Police Lock-ups". Recommendation 11 of the report states —

That the Minister for Police reviews section 139(3) of the *Criminal Investigation Act 2006* and considers how it might be amended to better reflect current police facilities and police preferences for holding arrested suspects.

The amendments in the bill meet this recommendation.

Section 139(3) is clearly hindering the work of Western Australia Police and is a substantial impost on frontline police availability. Accordingly, to resolve these problems by allowing arrested suspects to be detained by police in lockups or other places of confinement such as custody suites if implemented in the future, this bill will: repeal section 139(3) of the Criminal Investigation Act 2006 in its entirety; amend section 139(2) to make it clear that a police officer may hold an arrested suspect in custody; amend section 142(7) to remove a superseded reference to "in a lockup or other place of confinement"; and make consequential amendments to sections 142(4), (5) and (6).

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman**.