

**PROJECT TRICORD/OPERATION POLO**

*Statement by Minister for Police*

**MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Police)** [2.07 pm]: I rise to inform the house about Project Tricord/Operation Polo. This has been a joint agency criminal investigation led by Western Australia Police. Other agencies involved have included the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Crime Commission, the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, the Australian Taxation Office, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre, and the Western Australian Corruption and Crime Commission. This operation commenced last year as part of ongoing efforts by police to identify, target and dismantle organised crime syndicates operating in Western Australia. A total of 38 search warrants have been executed since Saturday morning as part of the multi-agency operations, resulting in 19 people charged with 38 offences. Investigations are continuing, and further charges are expected to be laid, including those related to 21 firearms that were seized.

This is certainly the biggest investigation from a joint approach and an organised crime perspective that WA Police has been involved in in Western Australia. The organised crime enterprise is allegedly involved in businesses in primary production, construction and the entertainment industry. Raids in the lead-up to Saturday's crackdown had netted three kilograms of methylamphetamine, two kilograms of heroin and other drugs. More than \$500 000 in cash and 21 firearms, including illicit handguns and assault rifles, had been seized. Some of those guns had allegedly been used in burglaries around Perth suburbs, and investigations are ongoing into the alleged syndicate's involvement in those crimes.

Investigations targeting organised crime syndicates are a priority for WA Police, and actions such as these send a clear message to those involved that we will identify, target and dismantle organised crime syndicates operating in WA. I congratulate everybody who has participated in this investigation and operation, and I am very proud of the WA Police effort into this operation.