

PUBLIC VIOLENCE — NORTHBRIDGE

744. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. How does the Premier expect to have any credibility on law and order when he will not employ sufficient police and he will not even give them —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members on my right, I cannot hear. Start again, Leader of the Opposition.

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

How does the Premier expect to have any credibility on law and order when he will not employ sufficient police and will not pay them the pay rise he promised?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Once again, there is a false premise in the preamble to the question. I want to reiterate that the total cost of services this year is \$104 million more than what we inherited. Up to the 2022–23 period, six years, there will have been \$1.2 billion more spent on policing services than in the last six years of the last Liberal–National government. We have put in place schemes to assist our police officers that were talked about for years. The police redress scheme was unable to be implemented by the last government; we have implemented it. The process for police officers to medically retire from the police force without a show cause notice has been implemented by this government. We have provided our police with handheld mobile tablets—again, something that could have been done for many years but was not, this government has put in place. There is \$15 million for stab-proof ballistic body armour protection measures for our police. There is a new police helicopter. Again, the previous government was unable to deal with that; we have dealt with it. We have given our police additional capacity to use lethal force when dealing with terrorist incidents; that has been passed through the Parliament. In addition to that, we have put in place 100 additional officers for the meth border force.

That is just a taste of some of the things we have done that the previous government struggled with and was unable to implement. It was a do-nothing government. WA had the highest increase in crime on record when it was in office, which was matched only by its increase in debt and unemployment.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: That is the reality of the situation. The previous government's record stands for everyone to see: the highest increase in crime in the history of Western Australia, on this person's watch.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members on my left!