

POLICE — CLIMATE ACTIVISTS

1564. Hon Dr BRAD PETTITT to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

I refer to an article in WAtoday of Tuesday, 28 November titled “WA Police slammed for ‘unlawful’ seizure of WA campaigners’ phones”.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that five mobile telephones were seized from climate campaigners during a traffic stop on Tuesday morning in Karratha and provide the reasons for the seizure?
- (2) Will the personal phones be returned to the campaigners they were seized from?
- (3) If no to (2), given that these devices are essential for the employment and personal lives of the individuals that they were seized from, will the police refund the purchase price?
- (4) According to the article, the only specific ground given for stopping and searching the vehicle, the seizure of the devices and the move-on notices was that one of the individuals in a vehicle was wearing a “Disrupt Burrup Hub” T-shirt; therefore, can the minister please outline which legislation gives the police the power to prohibit the display of insignia relating to this group?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Police. The Western Australia Police Force advises as follows.

- (1) Karratha Police seized five mobile phones from the occupants of a vehicle on Tuesday morning. The phones were seized as part of an ongoing criminal investigation.
- (2) Arrangements are being made to return the mobile phones to the owners.
- (3) The mobile phones were seized lawfully utilising the Criminal Investigation Act.
- (4) WA police have taken no action to prohibit the display of any insignia in this matter.