

# **STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS**

**2019–20 BUDGET ESTIMATES**



**TRANSCRIPT OF EVIDENCE  
TAKEN AT PERTH  
WEDNESDAY, 19 JUNE 2019**

**SESSION THREE  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE FORCE  
ROAD SAFETY COMMISSION  
ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL**

## **Members**

**Hon Alanna Clohesy (Chair)  
Hon Tjorn Sibma (Deputy Chair)  
Hon Diane Evers  
Hon Aaron Stonehouse  
Hon Colin Tincknell**

---

**Hearing commenced at 11.30 am**

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON**

**Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Police, examined:**

**Mr COLIN BLANCH**

**Acting Commissioner, Western Australia Police Force, examined:**

**Mr CRAIG WARD**

**Acting Deputy Commissioner, Western Australia Police Force, examined:**

**Ms KYLIE WHITELEY**

**Assistant Commissioner, Western Australia Police Force, examined:**

**Mr HOWARD GRETTON**

**Director, Media and Corporate Communication, Western Australia Police Force, examined:**

**Mr PAUL STEEL**

**Assistant Commissioner, Western Australia Police Force, examined:**

**Mr FRANK PASQUALE**

**Executive Director, Western Australia Police Force, examined:**

**Ms SANTA CARDENIA**

**Chief Finance Officer, Western Australia Police Force, examined:**

**Mr SIMON GRIEVE**

**Acting Road Safety Commissioner, examined:**

**Mr KIM LAW**

**Assistant Director, Finance and Business Services, Road Safety Commission, examined:**

**Mr IAIN CAMERON**

**Chairman, Road Safety Council, examined:**

**Ms RACHEL SACKVILLE-MINCHIN**

**Chief of Staff, Minister for Police, examined:**

**The CHAIR:** On behalf of the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations, I welcome you to today's hearings. Have you read, understood and signed the document entitled "Information for Witnesses?"

**The WITNESSES:** Yes.

**The CHAIR:** It is essential that all your testimony before the committee is complete and truthful to the best of your knowledge. This hearing is being recorded by Hansard and a transcript of your evidence will be provided to you. It is also being broadcast live on the Parliament's website. The hearing is being held in public although there is discretion available to the committee to hear evidence in private. If, for some reason, you wish to make a confidential statement during the proceedings, you should request that the evidence be taken in closed session before answering the question. Agencies have an important role and duty in assisting the committee to scrutinise the budget papers and the committee values your assistance with this. Minister, do you have a brief opening statement?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I do not, Madam Chair.

**The CHAIR:** We will go straight to questions. I give the call to Hon Diane Evers.

**Hon DIANE EVERS:** My first question is on the statement of financial position on page 364 of budget paper No 2. I note under current liabilities and non-current liabilities there are a number of figures that stay the same from one year to the next. Some of those I can understand on today's figures are probably the best guess as to what it will be next year. But with employee provisions in the non-current liabilities, I would expect some change in that just due to maybe numbers of employees, salary rates and maybe even an intention as to how long people would have on their provisions going out.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I will ask Mr Pasquale if he can reply to that

---

**Mr Pasquale:** Were you referring to the current liabilities?

**Hon DIANE EVERS:** The non-current liabilities for employee provisions going out for the next four years is just showing the same figure. Is it that you are at the right level of where you want to be?

**Mr Pasquale:** I do not have the specific details in terms of the movements between years. I can see that they are fixed. In terms of related information, obviously there is an association with our salaries budget and various provisions in relation to salaries and employee entitlements. Clearly, we have some variability in the current liabilities, but I do not have the specific details around why it is constant across the forward estimates. I would have to do more analysis to give you something more specific than that.

**Hon DIANE EVERS:** Could I have a bit more detail on that?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Yes, by way of supplementary information we will provide some lines as to why that employee provisions figure remains static over the years from the 2018–19 estimated actual out to the 2022–23 forward estimates.

*[Supplementary Information No C1.]*

**Hon DIANE EVERS:** My next question is with regard to the voluntary targeted separation scheme.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Member, are you referring to a particular page?

**Hon DIANE EVERS:** The page is 141, note (c). I have not seen whether it is in the specific part of the Western Australia Police Force budget, but that is in the Treasury where they are talking about the voluntary targeted separation scheme. It is on page 141 of budget paper No 2, note (c). In the middle of that it mentions that there are a further 163 separations, so more people still leaving the police force. Given that this is now two years on into the program and we are still having people who are taking up this scheme, how has this impacted the total number of police? I assume numbers are not just continuing to drop, but if you could fill me in.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Member, I cannot find the place that you are referring to in the budget papers, but that is okay. I will only ask members, because our files are done in such a way, that if you can tell us the line item on a budget paper, then we will probably have notes that correspond to that. Saying that though, I can ask Mr Pasquale if he can make some comments in relation to the VTSS.

**Mr Pasquale:** Particularly in relation to the 2018–19 financial year, the department committed to a 150 police officer severance program. That program was achieved in the same financial year. Commencing from April to December this year, we are already on a replacement process to reinstate those officers. It was a severance program that saw 152 officers to be exact, take up the program, but we are now on a replenishment pathway. It is expected that 150 police officers will be back on deck by the end of the calendar year.

**Hon DIANE EVERS:** That does not seem to match up then with what is said in the budget, that there is still another 163 to take it up in 2018–19. So what you are saying is that although —

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Sorry, we are going to try again. Tell us again what line item you are referring to, then we may well be able to find the response in our files.

**Hon DIANE EVERS:** I refer to budget paper No 2, page 141.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Budget paper No 2 goes from pages 340 —

**Hon DIANE EVERS:** No; No 2, volume 1.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Sorry, we will get our act together, member.

**Hon DIANE EVERS:** I think we can move on because the answer that you gave me makes sense, that people have taken up this scheme and now you are replacing them. I understood from the scheme that this was to reduce numbers and now we are just replacing them. I think I can leave it there. There is not a question to follow on from that.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** The policy decision was made that that would not be the case for police.

**Hon DIANE EVERS:** Yes, thank you.

**Hon AARON STONEHOUSE:** The public was made aware of a review conducted in 2017 by Mr Ron Bogan into the WA Police Force, which outlined some pretty serious allegations of incompetence, a lack of leadership, and allegations of misconduct amongst other things. I do not have a page in the budget because it obviously does not appear there, but can you tell the committee what the cost of conducting that review was?

[11.40 am]

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I will ask Acting Commissioner Blanch to reply. Obviously, this is an opportunity today to interrogate the budget papers before us; however, we can certainly provide an answer to that question.

**Hon AARON STONEHOUSE:** I would appreciate that.

**Mr Blanch:** The cost of the report to Mr Bogan was just under \$57 000.

**Hon AARON STONEHOUSE:** Okay—\$57 000. This is obviously out in the public already. When can we expect this review to be made public by being tabled in Parliament or through some other method?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** This report was commissioned by Commissioner Dawson early after he took on the role of Commissioner of Police in Western Australia. It was intended to be an internal document to provide a stocktake of the agency for him. It has been no secret that there has been a level of dissatisfaction in relation to the metropolitan operating model. The report was undertaken, as I said, as an internal report. The commissioner has acted on the report, and as a result, he has restructured WA police in that he has established eight metropolitan districts, he has amalgamated the local policing teams and response teams, he has increased the number of officers dedicated to responding to family and domestic violence, and he has established a central regional operations group. In relation to the document, I am advised that it was provided to *The West Australian* by WA police on Monday, 10 June. That was following an FOI application. I am further advised that on 22 May, the acting FOI commissioner advised Commissioner Dawson that it was her view that the report was not exempt from release under the FOI act, so following third party consultation that finished on 6 June, a redacted document was provided to *The West Australian* newspaper. I am not sure whether the acting commissioner wants to elaborate any further.

**Mr Blanch:** I can confirm those dates and that it was released to *The West Australian* newspaper.

**Hon AARON STONEHOUSE:** Is it possible for the government to table the redacted report so it is more widely available to the public? It is all good and well that *The West Australian* has it through an FOI, but there may be other laypeople who do not have access to that method and tabling it in Parliament would certainly make it widely available to the public. Would you consider that?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I am certainly happy to undertake to ask the Minister for Police whether that is available and whether we can do that—that is, provide it in a redacted form as was provided to *The West Australian*. I will take that on board.

[*Supplementary Information C2.*]

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Given that it has been provided to *The West Australian* newspaper in a redacted form, I cannot see why not, but given it is not my portfolio, I have to discuss that issue with the Minister for Police.

**Hon AARON STONEHOUSE:** I appreciate that. Just one last question on this matter before I move on, some of the allegations in that review are pretty serious. I wonder if they have resulted in a negative impact on certain efficiencies and outcomes for WA police and whether they are reflected anywhere in the budget.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I can ask acting Commissioner Blanch whether he can comment on the changes, I guess, that have resulted from the report.

**Mr Blanch:** One of the main outcomes of the report was to introduce a strategic plan and a clear direction and vision for the agency which the commissioner has implemented since receiving that report. There is a strategic plan available on our website. He has instituted some values very clearly to the workforce. Shortly after receiving the report, he got all the executive together and put forward his vision for the WA Police. As you know, that report came out to the commissioner some time ago now, and since that date—I am 12 months into the organisation—we have been following his plan and strategic vision for the organisation since that date.

**Hon AARON STONEHOUSE:** Moving on, I see we have the chair of the Road Safety Council and the acting Road Safety Commissioner. I have a question regarding a consultation document put out by the Road Safety Council, although I note that it was also published by the Road Safety Commission. It seems like it might have been an effort in tandem perhaps, but maybe you can clarify that. What I am interested in is that call to reduce speed limits across Western Australia by 10 kilometres per hour. I am wondering whether the assistant commissioner can tell me—I obviously know what Mr Cameron's view is; he has been out in the media clarifying the views of the Road safety Council—but what is the Road Safety Commission's view on reducing speed limits by 10 kilometres an hour?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** If I can respond as the minister representing here today, obviously there is no plan by state government to cut speed limits. We are certainly not contemplating wholesale speed limit changes. Speed limit changes would only be considered if there was community demand or support for the change. Again, member, I encourage you if you are asking questions in this forum to at least look at the budget papers and find a line item for us, because this really is an opportunity to interrogate the government on the budget papers. Saying that, I am giving the answer to you now, but just for future reference. There is a consultation paper from the Road Safety Council that is out that encourages all road users to have their say doing the development of a new road strategy for Western Australia. The government is very keen, as, indeed, I think the Road Safety Council are, to hear the views of as many Western Australians as possible about how we might make Western Australia roads safer. As a government, you would be aware that we have a very strong focus on saving lives and making our roads as safe as possible into the future, and we have put in place a number of laws, for example, to protect cyclists and roadside emergency workers. We have also set up a dedicated police squad to patrol our regional roads. Of course, we are also investing significantly to make our roads safer through improvements to dangerous

roads and intersections. That is the government's view. As I said, the Road Safety Council have got their consultation paper out at the moment and we encourage anyone with an interest to participate in that consultation process.

**The CHAIR:** Make this your last question.

**Hon AARON STONEHOUSE:** Sure, thank you.

When the question of reducing speed limits was first raised, Minister Roberts was quoted in *The West* as saying —  
... when it comes to saving lives, nothing is off the table”.

I was interested to hear that reducing speed limits across states is off the table from the government's perspective.

**The CHAIR:** Is there a question in that?

**Hon AARON STONEHOUSE:** What I wonder is: are other measures off the table? While broad measures to reduce road injuries are being considered, are things like mandatory helmets while driving an automobile on the table or are off the table?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** As I indicated, there is no plan to cut speed limits. Obviously, we are in the process of undertaking 50 forums across the state over a 12-week period. They will include about 28 community forums right around the state. We will also have 11 targeted stakeholder workshops. We will have a heavy vehicle industry forum. We will have seven forums to address cyclists, motorcyclists, Aboriginal and other interested road-user groups, and we will also be going to seven schools. There will be multiple forums in the metropolitan area and in regional Western Australia. We have already had significant feedback. I think we have had 900 submissions or bits of feedback in the first five days and we will wait and see. Once the consultation process closes, the information will be analysed by the Road Safety Council to develop draft options and potential initiatives for government to consider. No actions have been recommended at this time. Although I have indicated that there is no plan to cut speed limits, we will wait and see what comes out of those various fora around the state and we will see what the Road Safety Council develops as options for government in the future.

**Hon COLIN TINCKNELL:** My questions are all regarding the police force redress scheme. I refer to page 353 of budget paper No 2, volume 2 and the line item headed “Administered Transactions”. I have a lot of questions and I am happy to take some of this on notice. How many medically retired police officers will be compensated by this redress scheme? An amount of \$16.1 million has been allocated. It is the only figure on that line—\$16 million in 2019–20.

**The CHAIR:** Just to point out, there is a note regarding the redress scheme at (a).

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Thanks, member, for the question. I appreciate you pointing to a line item; that is very helpful. I ask Mr Pasquale if he can respond.

**Mr Pasquale:** It is not based on any limit; it is based on a set of eligibility criteria and how many applications were received within the eligibility period. That assessment is being undertaken now by the independent assessment panel, so we do not have that data available until those decisions have been assessed and a recommendation is put forward to cabinet for consideration.

[11.50 am]

**Hon COLIN TINCKNELL:** So things like how many applications have been received, how many have been approved; you do not have all that information?

**Mr Pasquale:** Not approved, no, because that process is still being assessed. In relation to “received”, I do not personally have that information at hand.

**Hon COLIN TINCKNELL:** I was also wondering: does this \$16 million figure represent the final figure for all payments to be made?

**Mr Pasquale:** Yes, the sum of funding that has been allocated is for the scheme. It is a parameter set within the scheme, so that is the sum of funding that is available to distribute accordingly.

[Supplementary Information C3.]

**Hon COLIN TINCKNELL:** I have a lot more questions in that area. I am just wondering whether I could put that on notice through the Chair?

**The CHAIR:** If you have any unasked questions at the end, you can. You have a couple of minutes left, so you may as well make the most of it.

**Hon COLIN TINCKNELL:** I will move on. I will send the other information in writing. Thank you.

I have another line of questioning. At page 354, we look at “Increased Impaired (Alcohol and Drug) Driving Detection”. It is about halfway down. There is no item number, but just \$1 000 has been budgeted during that period. I ask the minister: could you explain why such an insignificant amount is being budgeted for such an important initiative during those years?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I suspect that is an adjustment, but I will ask Mr Pasquale if he can comment on that.

**Mr Pasquale:** Yes, this is the spending table change, so it is just representing the movement from whatever the previous allocation was. Clearly, it is a small amount. I do not have before me the base amount that is included, but that just represents the adjustment to what the previous base figure was.

**Hon COLIN TINCKNELL:** Then the \$144 000 later on in the forward estimates, is that a negative amount?

**Mr Pasquale:** Similarly, it will be an adjustment to whatever the base amount was, and bringing the new forward estimate year on the books. I do not have the base figures for that particular program before me; these just represent the adjustments.

**Hon COLIN TINCKNELL:** Okay. My other question is on page 354. Once again, it is about domestic violence training. There is a provision of \$2 million put aside. Who does the agency plan to train, and how will it ensure that such training is sufficient or ongoing?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Madam Chair, I will ask Assistant Commissioner Whiteley if she can respond to that issue.

**Ms Whiteley:** Just in relation to the funding, there are two elements to the funding. The funding is for two-day training in the 2019–20 period, and then the half-day training ongoing to frontline officers. Part of the funding also includes the development of a code of practice, which relates to the way we respond to family violence and how that is implemented in the frontline in terms of providing those services. That will involve engaging a consultant and working with the appropriate representatives within the community to make sure the code of practice and our training fits with those requirements.

**Hon TJORN SIBMA:** Just picking up on the thread, on page 366, “Details of Administered Transactions”, in relation to the WA Police Force redress scheme and the nearly \$16.1 million set aside in 2019–20, did I hear correctly that witnesses do not have information regarding the number of police officers who have accessed that scheme to date?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** You did hear it; we do not have that with us.

**Hon TJORN SIBMA:** Would it be possible in the course of this hearing, minister, to obtain that information? We have a phalanx of people here; people are watching these hearings. That would be useful information to obtain, if possible.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I am not at liberty to promise that. I can certainly undertake to provide that information by way of supplementary.

**The CHAIR:** The minister has already undertaken to provide information in relation to that.

**Hon TJORN SIBMA:** If there might be somebody in the minister’s offices watching these proceedings, I hope they can forward that information.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Member, if it magically appears for some reason, I will certainly bring it to the committee’s attention, but I am not promising that.

**Hon TJORN SIBMA:** “Magically”—I believe in miracles. Thank you, minister.

Just in relation to significant issues impacting the agency as they appear on pages 354 and 355, in particular the paragraph, the first sentence, and paragraph 9, concerning both the trust and value of policing in this state and the welfare of its force. In relation to the Bogan report, which has already been raised in the course of these hearings, I just want to confirm that \$57 000 was the cost of procuring that report?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** You heard correctly.

**Hon TJORN SIBMA:** Could I ask how that report was procured from Mr Bogan?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Assistant Commissioner Blanch.

**Mr Blanch:** The incoming commissioner, Mr Dawson, asked for a review to be done. I have been advised that an internal panel of three people was set up and sought a person to do that review, and Mr Bogan was selected.

**Hon TJORN SIBMA:** Thank you. Was Mr Bogan considered along with any other potential consultants?

**Mr Blanch:** I do not have that information.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** That process would have predated Acting Commissioner Blanch’s role. We could seek to find out.

**Hon TJORN SIBMA:** That might be useful. Thank you, minister.

*[Supplementary Information No C4.]*

**Hon TJORN SIBMA:** Regarding the Bogan report, were any terms of reference established by the commissioner in providing that report; and, if so, could you tell me what they were?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** My understanding is that there would have been. They will be in the review, and if I am able to release that document, you will see what those terms of reference were.

**Hon TJORN SIBMA:** May I also ask the minister—I think this will have to be taken as a supplementary—could I get a time line of the point at which the commissioner formed a view that such a report was necessary until the commissioner received a draft copy of that report?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I can ask Acting Commissioner Blanch if he can provide the committee with a time line of events in relation to that report. He will do that now.

**Hon TJORN SIBMA:** Would it also be possible to advise, perhaps by way of supplementary, whether any officers named in that report were provided with recourse to answer to any findings or recommendations made against them?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Let us deal with the first question first, which is in relation to time line. We will give you that now.

**The CHAIR:** There are two parts to that question; the first one is about the time line. Can we have that addressed? Acting Commissioner Blanch.

**Mr Blanch:** Commissioner Dawson initiated the review or requested the review on 29 August 2017. A final copy of the review was provided to Commissioner Dawson on 17 November 2017.

**The CHAIR:** Member.

**Hon TJORN SIBMA:** I might give it up.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Do not give it up yet. In relation to your earlier question where I was going to do some magic, none of us has that information in our files. However, I understand that Assistant Commissioner Ward will be able to give you some information in relation to the number of medically retired officers who have applied. Assistant Commissioner Ward, please.

[12.00 pm]

**Mr Ward:** Thank you, minister. From my recollection, the number that we are working on at the minute, there were actuarials done that suggested that 329 officers may be eligible under the criteria we set; that is, they were medically retired from the police force for a work-related illness or injury and they were exited using the provisions of section 8. The actuarials went back in time to look at that cohort and the number that came out was 329, from my recollection. As a result of the fairly extensive time we allowed for people to apply, the number in my head is 355, I think, is the number who ultimately applied. Some of those will be deemed ineligible, but the final decision on eligibility will be administered by the independent assessment panel. Whilst the gross number is in the vicinity of 355, it is likely that some of those will be deemed ineligible and, therefore, will not go forward in the process of the scheme.

**The CHAIR:** Hon Michael Mischin.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Hopefully that was helpful, member. Sorry.

**Hon TJORN SIBMA:** Miracles happen!

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN:** How much time do I have?

**The CHAIR:** You have 10 minutes in the first round and more if we can get to a second round.

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN:** Thank you. I have a number of questions about the so-called Bogan report, also.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Sorry member, I am having trouble hearing you.

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN:** I have a few questions regarding the so-called Bogan report as well. I take it that the gentleman's name is Ron Bogan. I would like to get some information about how this review came about, what its parameters were, and how it ended up from being a review of the agency, into a series of allegations about the conduct of senior officers in particular. What was the purpose of this review that led to, finally, some statement of values and a strategic plan? How did it drift off into the receipt of specific allegations of misconduct on the part of senior police officers? Also, where has this had a mention in previous budget papers? It is said that it was some months after Commissioner Dawson took up his position, but has any reference to this review and the expense involved in it appeared in any previous budget papers that have been supplied; and, if not, why not?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I will ask Acting Commissioner Blanch to make a comment, but I remind members that this report, we have been told earlier today, cost \$57 000. Given the budget papers before us now have multi-billion dollars in the police portfolio to be spent in the forward estimates period, that \$57 000 is an insignificant amount in comparison to the rest.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** Perhaps you should consider how much it influences public confidence. It is very damaging.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** As I said, I will ask the acting commissioner if he can make a comment.

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN:** It has obviously had some very far ranging consequences.

**The CHAIR:** Member, you have a number of questions before the witnesses. Can we give them an opportunity to answer them?

**Mr Blanch:** When the incoming commissioner initiated the review, he sought to take a snapshot of the agency to see its strengths and weaknesses, its internal governance, and essentially to look at how the senior executive was operating before he took the reins as commissioner. As a result of that review, it caused a number of people internally to be interviewed as part of the review. I think the number is in the order of 200 staff members. There were obvious disclosures made. Allegations were made as part of that review. To your question of how it came to the front about individual allegations, they were made as part of the review to the reviewer. It still remained an outcome of the review to be about structure, about governance, about strengths and weaknesses about the senior executive.

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN:** Leading on from that, these are pretty serious allegations of misconduct on the part of senior officers in the agency. People have vented their views. The 200-odd people that were selected, did they volunteer their information or were they selected in order to give input into the review? How did it come about that they made these sorts of comments? What flowed from it? Have any of these been investigated internally? Have any of them been referred to the CCC; and, if so, which? What is the status of those inquiries? In case anyone is looking for some reference in the budget papers, I refer you to page 354, where it is said that an aim is —

To provide trusted and valued policing services for Western Australia, the Western Australia Police Force is committed to enforcing the law, preventing crime, and managing emergencies, which are the three pillars that remain core capabilities for the agency.

It seems to me that this inquiry, of which we have only just found out, and although it is a negligible amount in the scheme of things, does have some significant consequences. It has led to a strategic plan, we are told. So I would like to know more about what has come from this inquiry rather than a strategic plan.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I will ask Acting Commissioner Blanch if he can provide an answer to some of those questions.

**Mr Blanch:** If you could just go back to the first question, I will answer them one at a time. It will make it a little bit easier.

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN:** What has been the outcome of the inquiry? Have any of the allegations been investigated, and by whom? To what extent were they investigated by Mr Bogan?

**Mr Blanch:** All allegations that were made as part of the review were investigated by the professional standards area within WA police. They were all referred to the CCC for review. The CCC did reply to us with their review. None of the matters were substantiated, or there was no finding of conduct that existed outside of the code of conduct.

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN:** How were these 200-odd people selected to participate in the review? Were they picked by Mr Bogan, and what was the criteria for that, or was it simply just advertised amongst officers that a review was being conducted and “Come and see him if you want to”?

**Mr Blanch:** I do not have that information.

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN:** All right. But the upshot of it all is that none of these comments have been substantiated and no action has been taken in respect of people that allegations had been made against.

**Mr Blanch:** Again, they were all fully investigated by professional standards. It was referred to the CCC, which they did review, and concurred with our conclusions.

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN:** What was Mr Bogan’s primary qualification for conducting the strategic review and then receiving these sort of allegations? When did it first come to the attention of the commissioner that serious allegations were being made quite apart from matters relating to the operations of the agency as an organism?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I will ask the acting commissioner to provide whatever he can in response to that question.

**Mr Blanch:** As far as the qualifications of Mr Bogan, I do not have that with me today, but I can say that Commissioner Dawson received that report on 17 November 2017, when he would have received the report and the allegations that were contained within it.

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN:** Perhaps it can be taken on notice, because I understand that a copy of the report may be coming to us in due course anyway, but I would like to know a little bit more information about how Mr Bogan was selected, who was on the selection panel, and what his brief was in order to conduct this inquiry, and how it was conducted. Some of that may be apparent from the report, but it may not be. It is particularly disturbing that something like this, which would undermine confidence in the Western Australia police and seems to be based on what may be no more than latrine gossip about senior officers, has been ventilated and discovered in this fashion rather than managed by the minister in an appropriate way to ensure that there is no damage to the reputation of the service. I would like to know more about the history of it, how it came about and what is in it. Perhaps that can be divided in due course. But also, when the commissioner first briefed the minister on this subject —



**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Member, it gets really difficult. If you are seeking information, we will certainly undertake to provide information, if you can be clear on what you are seeking. Interspersing it with long commentary does not help us to navigate what you are actually asking for. If you can be clear about what you want —

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN:** My apologies.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** — the committee clerk can give it a number, so then we can easily track it down at a later stage.

**The CHAIR:** Thanks, minister.

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN:** Thank you for that. I was hoping that I might be able to give a better idea of the sort of concerns I have to assist in being able to isolate the information. I would like a history of the report and how it came about —

**The CHAIR:** Member, you have already articulated a number of items that you are seeking. We are just going to allocate that a number—C5.

[12.10 pm]

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Madam Chair, I want to be clear what the member is asking for.

**The CHAIR:** Member, could you please articulate what information you are seeking in relation to the report and the process, noting that the committee has already agreed?

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN:** I would like to know how Mr Bogan was selected; the basis for who was on the selection panel; his brief; how it was that he selected or received the information that was provided to him; when the minister first found out about this report; and whether it has appeared, or any reference has been made to it, in previous budget papers or the strategic plan drawn from in previous budget papers. Also, in respect to the various allegations you have told us that they have been looked into and no substance was found, when were they referred to the CCC, what was referred to the CCC and what investigations were taken when the advice was received by police as to the commissioner as to the outcome of those inquiries? Also, in respect to the allegations made, was there any —

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** This is crazy.

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN:** Do you mind if I finish? Was there any consultation with those for whom adverse comments were being made in that report? We had the previous commissioner being targeted. My understanding is he was never approached about his views as to what was being found. I would like to know whether there was any process involved and natural justice in this case and what it was.

**The CHAIR:** Inasmuch as that information may be able to be provided, member, the minister will address that to the committee.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I just want to make the point, Madam Chair, that —

**The CHAIR:** Inasmuch as the information is able to be provided; that is it.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** — as per normal standard procurement arrangements, the Minister for Police was not, obviously, part of the selection process for the consultant. I am advised that the consultant had done some work for WA Police before for previous commissioners. I will endeavour to provide a fulsome answer to that long list of questions that the honourable member has just asked.

**The CHAIR:** Thanks, member. As I said, inasmuch as the information is available and able to be provided.

[*Supplementary Information No C5.*]

**Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE:** I want to go to the questions prior to hearing that I asked in two particular areas—one with respect to police, initially. The decision for the WA Police Force not to pass on the increase in GROH rental costs to police officers will come at a cost of \$1.3 million this year. Can you confirm for me that it is still unclear who will bear that cost, whether it will be the agency, in the WA Police Force, or the state budget?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I can now confirm that that decision is yet to be made.

**Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE:** Do we know when the decision will be made?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** No.

**Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE:** I turn now to question 5 in relation to the industrial agreement and the offer that has been made by the government to the police. I hope the minister does not continue to say, “It’s under negotiation so I can’t respond”, because the Minister for Industrial Relations has issued a media statement with specific details, so he is obviously able to respond.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Maybe you should ask him, and have it in front of him.

**Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE:** I think in the last hearing you told me I should ask police. We now have the Minister for Police, so this is your chance to shine.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I was not aware of the committee's statement.

**The CHAIR:** Order, members. Please go ahead with your question.

**Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE:** I want to confirm and have clarified the answer to question 5(c). What you have suggested in response to my question is that the cost next year, 2019–20, of offering police a CPI wage increase versus the flat \$1 000 will cost \$7 million and in 2020–21 it will be \$18 million. Is my understanding correct?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Your understanding is correct.

**Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE:** Do you therefore also agree that CPI as a measure of inflation and by extension cost of living, you are actually asking police officers to take a \$7 million pay cut and an \$18 million pay across the next two years cut in real terms?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I am not asking police officers to do anything. I am the minister representing the Minister for Police here today in relation to these budget papers. I am not at liberty to confirm or deny anything. I do not have the figures in front of me in relation to that question that you have asked, so I am not sure what the decrease is.

**Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE:** The figures are in the answer that you have signed off on, minister. It is acting Minister for Police. You were acting minister at the time, not just the minister representing.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** But I cannot confirm what the real decrease is. I have not signed off on anything to suggest a decrease.

**Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE:** Maybe the acting commissioner is able to confirm whether this is actually a pay cut in real terms.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** The acting commissioner is indicating that he is not able to. If you have that question, we can take that on notice and provide the information by way of supplementary.

**Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE:** Good luck. I will frame my own question post hearings. Thank you, Madam Chair.

I turn to the Road Safety Commission's response—sorry, the acting minister's response to my questions on the road trauma trust account, which is question 8. Can I confirm that the answers provided to the committee, minister, were the answers provided to you by the Road Safety Council and if there were any material differences?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I can certainly confirm that the answers that have been provided to the committee were the answers that were provided to me to reply to the committee. These were simply provided to me and I signed off on them.

**Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE:** So, there was no wordsmithing when it hit the minister's office from what the advice was that was provided by the Road Safety Council?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Certainly, not to my knowledge. I simply signed the questions that were provided to me to provide to the committee.

**Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE:** Can the minister's chief of staff confirm that?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** There may well have been typographic changes. We would have to talk to the advisers. I am not sure. She has indicated not to the substance of the answers.

**Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE:** With respect to the projects being funded out of the road trauma trust account next year, I asked how many of the approved projects initially did not originate from the Road Safety Council, which is 8(b). The answer was —

The Road Safety Commission advise the projects and initiatives were approved by the Road Safety Council.

That is not what I asked. I asked how many of the projects did not initiate with the Road Safety Council. If you look at part (c) to my question —

Of those identified in (2) where did the approved projects and initiatives originate;

You actually said —

The Road Safety Commission advise from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services; Injury Matters and the Shire of Cranbrook.

Are you able now to tell me which projects in the road trauma trust account relate to DFES, Injury Matters and the Shire of Cranbrook, and perhaps correct the answer to question 8(b)?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** The answer to question 8(b) was the answer, as I said, provided to me by the agency. I will ask Mr Cameron if he is able to provide a more fulsome answer.

**Mr Cameron:** If I understand the question correctly, all of those projects were recommended by the Road Safety Council. The answer is referring to the originating source. It is clear the Department of Fire and Emergency Services in one example submitted that. That was considered by the Road Safety Council. The question about did not originate from the council—the council received inputs and requests. As I say, in that case, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services in that example, Injury Matters, put forward a proposal and that was a carried-over matter from the Shire of Cranbrook. They have all gone to the Road Safety Council and were considered. Under the act, then, the council makes a recommendation to the minister. Those recommendations are then forwarded from there. There are some things that might be discussed by just the council, but they do not actually originate in the council; they come from member agencies or organisations. The council considers them, looks at their road trauma potential benefits and provides advice and recommendations to the minister. So, the answers there are correct.

**Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE:** Mr Cameron, in a similar vein, was all the 2019–20 expenditure from the road trauma trust account on the recommendation of the Road Safety Council in full? Question 8(d) goes to this; it suggests —

The Road Safety Commission advise the projects or initiatives receiving Road Trauma Trust Account funding received endorsement or recommendation ...

Was that in full?

**Mr Cameron:** Yes, to my knowledge. They all came through, they were all recommended by the council, and none of the projects funded there were not considered or recommended by the council, as per that answer.

**Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE:** So there is no police helicopter issue this year, where the Road Safety Council recommended against something, and the minister overrode that recommendation?

**Mr Cameron:** None of the projects that have been funded did not receive—they all received an endorsement or a recommendation from the council.

**Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE:** Attachment C, with respect to the road trauma trust account projects, under the heading, “People walking and riding”, could somebody tell me what the \$445 000 PARTY program is?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I will ask Mr Cameron if he can answer that one.

[12.20 pm]

**Mr Cameron:** The PARTY program operates in a number of hospitals, and it is a program where, through relationships and networks with the schools, young people are brought into the health system and they are provided with a combination of education and experience around what happens to people when they are injured, and sometimes killed, in road crashes. That program is operated through Health. It is based on a program and an evidentiary base that originated in Canada some years ago, and it is an attempt to, I guess, highlight and educate young people about the dangers of risky behaviours on the roads. This program is supported to run to educate children and young people.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** If I can just further add to that, there are no balloons involved, honourable member, and it is probably not a lot of fun for the people, but it is certainly a meaningful program that hopefully students take something out of, and hopefully will change their behaviour into the future as a result of participating.

**Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE:** Perhaps the program name can be reviewed.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I am advised that it is an acronym.

**Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE:** Okay. Can I ask, in my last question, where can I find the expenditure for the replacement police helicopter in the road trauma trust account at attachment C?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Member, we are trying to find that information, but I did want to put on the record that the program we referred to earlier was the Prevent Alcohol and Risk-related Trauma in Youth program, just so that people are clear.

I will ask Mr Pasquale if he can reply to that question.

**Mr Pasquale:** If I can refer you to page 360 of the estimates, at the top, in works in progress, you will see the helicopter replacement, in the second row, and that identifies \$26.9 million as the total cost and the cash flows in the subsequent years.

**Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE:** But is this not an RTTA expense, in part?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** We can provide the breakdown by way of supplementary information, just to get it right. Mr Pasquale may have some further information. We are trying to get you an answer to keep it moving.

**Mr Pasquale:** Incorporated within that \$26.9 million, is three different funding sources. It is made up of \$16.1 million from the consolidated account, \$10.2 million from the road trauma trust account, and \$600 000 from the fleet equipment replacement program.

**The CHAIR:** So we do not need to take any supplementary information.

**Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE:** I think what needs to be taken on notice is whether attachment C is accurate, because I think it ought to reflect an investment in the police helicopter.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I am advised it is accurate, because I think the money may well have flowed into the future year.

**Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE:** I see your point.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** So attachment C is accurate.

**Hon NICK GOIRAN:** Minister, do you have in your possession answers to questions provided prior to today's hearings?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I believe I do.

**Hon NICK GOIRAN:** If you do, you will have them in several parts, because they were not all provided in one hit. In particular, I draw to your attention the answer that was dated yesterday, 18 June, and the letter that has been provided to the Chair of this committee states that enclosed is the response to my first question. Do you have that one in your possession?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I have just been handed it.

**Hon NICK GOIRAN:** Minister, if you look there, you will see that the response provides an answer to question 1(a), (b) and (c), and it goes no further, certainly, in the copy that I have been provided. I just want to make sure that you and I are both on the same page, because I actually had a 10-part question, so the answer should go (d) through to (j), but I only have (a) through to (c).

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** The answer that I have got has got (a), (b) and (c).

**Hon NICK GOIRAN:** And then it ends with "not applicable"?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I have not signed off on this, because it came from the Minister for Police. I am advised that it must have been an error, so can we undertake —

**Hon NICK GOIRAN:** I will ask the remaining questions now. Part (d) was, "Does WA police consider concern for other students before disclosure to the Department of Education under section 28(b) of the Children and Community Services Act 2004?"

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** The minister's officer indicates to me that they do not remember that question being asked. I am not sure whether we are going to have the level of expertise here in relation to the level of detail that that you requiring. Ask your questions now, and I will see if I can get somebody to respond.

**Hon NICK GOIRAN:** The only person who is going to be able to answer the question is if there is a witness present that is familiar with the multiagency protocol for education options.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** No, probably not to the level of detail you are requiring.

**Hon NICK GOIRAN:** I will just indicate my disappointment about that, because I did ask a question on notice, prior to today's hearing, specifically on this topic. Whether there has been confusion as to how many parts of the question were asked and answered is one thing, but to not have any witness present who is able to answer further questions is disappointing. I will move on to a different topic.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Member, I am sorry. Just before you move on, can I apologise? The minister's officer indicated to me that they do not remember seeing it, but the reason that there was a delay in providing the response was because they sought to get answers for you. I can apologise to you for not providing the answers before today, and I can undertake to you and to the committee that an answer will be provided to parts (d) to (j).

**Hon NICK GOIRAN:** Thank you, minister.

I refer to the total appropriations for WA police, set out on page 353 of budget paper No 2. What is the budget allocation for the managing and monitoring of offenders registered on ANCOR?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** We do not have that level of expertise, or indeed that number with us, so just ask the question again, and I will indicate that we will provide it by way of supplementary information.

**Hon NICK GOIRAN:** So that will be taken on notice?

**The CHAIR:** Yes.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Just clarify what it was.

**Hon NICK GOIRAN:** The question is: what is the budget allocation for the managing and monitoring of offenders registered on ANCOR?

[Supplementary Information No C6.]

**Hon NICK GOIRAN:** At the same time, Madam Chair, if the minister could then also respond as to how this allocation compares to previous years.

**The CHAIR:** We will incorporate that into C6.

**Hon NICK GOIRAN:** Of the total of 60 offenders who had charges arising from Operation Fledermaus, how many are dangerous sex offenders?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** The acting commissioner has indicated that we will also provide that information to you by way of supplementary information.

*[Supplementary Information No C7.]*

**Hon NICK GOIRAN:** How many are not in custody, and are they being monitored?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** The acting commissioner has indicated that we can provide those details too.

**The CHAIR:** Okay, noting that that will be at a point-in-time answer.

[12.30 pm]

**Hon NICK GOIRAN:** Minister, when I previously asked questions about this, you, representing the Minister for Police, have responded. I refer to the answer provided on 21 February 2019, where you said —

With the cessation of Operation Fledermaus and the formation of the Pilbara Joint Response Team, the Western Australia Police Force are no longer manually collating the detailed information pertaining to the ... number of offenders, victims and charges. Each individual report and investigation for all serious crime matters, is separately case managed within the Information Management System and therefore reporting is case specific.

In light of that, will you be able to provide the answers that you have just taken on notice?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** The acting commissioner has indicated that the agency will seek to answer those questions that you have asked today.

**Hon NICK GOIRAN:** I know that they will seek to do so, but I want to be confident from the witnesses who are here today, including the acting commissioner, that there is confidence that the information is available and will be provided, because I have asked for this information in the past.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I will ask the acting commissioner to provide a response.

**Mr Blanch:** Some months ago, we did a stocktake of Operation Fledermaus, so we do have more specific answers. I cannot specifically say that I have the ones you have asked for today, but we certainly did a comprehensive review of who was involved, the number of offenders, where they are currently. So I will go back—and I have far more confidence than we did some months back in relation to the review we have done into Fledermaus—to provide the answers for you.

**Hon NICK GOIRAN:** Is that confidence because there has been a recent review, or stocktake as you say?

**Mr Blanch:** Correct.

**Hon NICK GOIRAN:** How recent was that stocktake? Was it a matter of weeks or months?

**Mr Blanch:** Months—probably two months.

**Hon NICK GOIRAN:** I might ask some further questions on that.

Madam Chair, my next question to the minister is: what is the cost of administering permits issued under the Public Order in Streets Act 1984 for protester and demonstrator activities?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** You are not referring to a particular line item by any chance, are you?

**Hon NICK GOIRAN:** Yes, the total appropriations for police on page 353 of the budget. What is the cost?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I was not being smart. It was only if it was somewhere else, just because the notes correspond with line items.

**Hon NICK GOIRAN:** It is not obvious where it would be as a line item.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** We will have to take that on notice.

*[Supplementary Information No C8.]*

**Hon NICK GOIRAN:** Have any charges been laid in breach of such permits by sidewalk advocates offering alternative help in areas outside of abortion clinics?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** The acting commissioner is indicating that he does not have that information at hand. Can we provide it by way of supplementary information?

**Mr Blanch:** Yes. We can endeavour to find that information through our systems.

**The CHAIR:** It is C8.

**Hon NICK GOIRAN:** As part of that, which will need to be taken on notice, I would be interested to know what charges have been laid or other action taken by police in respect of such incidents and the outcome of that action?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Same answer.

**The CHAIR:** And it is the same supplementary information number, C8. We might move on and, hopefully, come back again.

**Hon KEN BASTON:** I have a couple of questions. In budget paper No 2, volume 2, on page 354, it states in paragraph 2 —

As part of the Government's Meth Action Plan, the Western Australia Police Force has established a Meth Border Force to disrupt the supply chain ... drugs.

Will this force be operating statewide? What presence will the force have in northern Western Australia; that is, in the Pilbara and the Kimberley?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Thanks for the question. I will ask the acting commissioner to provide a response to that.

**Mr Blanch:** Yes, the effort against meth by the WA police is statewide. We will not have any permanent presence in addition to what we already have across the state; however, we are increasing our efforts against methamphetamine by having three specific teams dedicated to those organised crime syndicates that are importing and distributing methamphetamine throughout the state. That does mean that they will travel a fair bit to regional WA and to the areas that you have just mentioned. The strategy is to identify as many people involved in not only the hands-on drug offences, but who are facilitating organised crime and the delivery of those drugs into WA. Once we identify them, then it is quite an aggressive approach we are now taking to execute search warrants, where we have enough evidence to do so, and a significant disruption effort statewide against every one of those syndicates or networks to dismantle them as quickly as possible. That is not restricted to metro or regional WA; that is anyone involved in the trafficking of methamphetamine in WA.

We can talk about the success a couple of weekends ago where we executed 50 search warrants, including in regional WA, across the state. That resulted in 50 search warrants, \$4 million in cash seized, over 90 kilograms of drugs seized, 13 firearms off the streets. That was a dismantling of a significant organised crime network operating in WA that was trafficking methamphetamine throughout the state, including in regional WA.

**Hon KEN BASTON:** I have one more: page 358, under "Regional and Remote Policing Services". I noticed for "Employees (Full-Time Equivalents)", running across the page, it has gone from 2 037 —

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Sorry, member. We thought you said page 358; did you say page 358?

**Hon KEN BASTON:** I did. It is page 358.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Thank you.

**Hon KEN BASTON:** You will notice in the line item "Employees (Full-Time Equivalents)" there is 2 073. So it has gone up roughly by 36 a year. My question is: Are there any towns or regions that are identified as being in particular need of extra police? The figure that I have, is that the figure that has gone up per year in regional areas—36 officers?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Sorry, member, we were confused trying to find the page. Do you mind asking that again? We have got the page now, but we did not get your question because we were trying to focus on finding the page.

**Hon KEN BASTON:** It is page 358.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Actually, member, I am advised now that somebody was listening.

**Hon KEN BASTON:** That is nice to hear!

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Assistant Commissioner Steel has got an answer he can give you to that question.

**Mr Steel:** The decrease of the 30 FTE reflects the impact of the voluntary targeted separation scheme that we discussed earlier. Those positions are to be refilled in relation to that, and regional Western Australia has moved its FTE around to ensure that adequate service is being provided throughout the state.

**Hon PIERRE YANG:** I have a question in relation to point 1 of "Significant Issues Impacting the Agency", on page 354 of budget paper No 2, volume 2. It is in relation to body cameras. I understand that body cameras have been introduced into the WA Police Force. I have a series of questions on this issue. Are frontline officers wearing them now while on duty?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I will ask the acting commissioner to reply.

**Mr Blanch:** They have commenced rollout. They are currently in Wembley and Perth Police Stations, and that is part of our rollout that is going to continue throughout the year.

**Hon PIERRE YANG:** When can we expect all frontline officers on duty to have a body-worn camera?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Again, I ask the acting commissioner to reply.

**Mr Blanch:** The delivery of all body-worn cameras will be finalised—that is 4 200 body-worn cameras—in the last quarter of 2021, given it is a procurement contract and that is when they will be available to us.

**Hon PIERRE YANG:** What is the cost of this project at this stage? I was not able to find an item in the budget with a total cost of the project.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I can provide that because I have it in front of me. It is expected to cost \$17.8 million; that is, over five years.

**Hon PIERRE YANG:** Over five years?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** That is correct.

**Hon PIERRE YANG:** What is the current cost of this project?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** The current cost, as in what we have spent to date?

**Hon PIERRE YANG:** Yes.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Member, we will have to take that question on notice. The acting commissioner can provide some response.

**Mr Blanch:** I can say that the contract has been issued, so we are in the process of rolling it out. I cannot give you a snapshot in time of costs, but we are on budget and it is being delivered.

[12.40 pm]

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** I have a couple of questions I want to ask about the road trauma trust account, which is mentioned on page 359 and also under the asset investment program on page 360. Just before I do that, while Mr Cameron is finding that space, could I just convey through the minister and the acting commissioner, the appreciation of all of the people in south metropolitan that I have the honour to represent for the outstanding job that your officers do on the frontline. I want to relay how much they rely on their good work in very, very difficult circumstances. I am sure that is a view reflected by the entire Legislative Council membership and we just wanted to reassure, through you, to all those officers our support and, as I say, our admiration.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Thank you, member. I would echo that too and I will ask the commissioner to pass that on.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** Thank you. None of that good will extends to the ministerial level, of course, at such hearings!

On the subject of the road trauma trust account, I notice that it continues to make a healthy profit every year and some of that is being expended on the items listed at page 360. Mr Cameron, you earlier mentioned of course that there are other portfolio areas of expenditure. My question is: are you able to provide a consolidated list of road trauma trust account expenditure for items across all portfolios to go with what we have here?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I will ask Mr Cameron if he can answer that question.

**Mr Cameron:** That has been provided. That is in the attachments that were provided. That is just the road trauma trust account and, as you say, that refers directly across the portfolios—road improvements, speed enforcement, alcohol, drink-driving, education, the party program; all of those are referred to in the attachment.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** Which attachment are we talking about?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** It was provided to the committee in an answer to questions asked prior to the hearing. It was been provided to the committee a couple of weeks ago.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** Thanks for that. That is great. I am not a full-time member of the committee, but I will now obtain it from them.

My second question is: what is the balance of the road trauma trust account approximately at the moment?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** While we are looking for that, Chair, I do have that previously mentioned attachment C with the approved budget across portfolios. I am happy to provide that to the honourable member now if he wants that.

**The CHAIR:** Perhaps behind the Chair so we do not have to table it.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** It has previously been released. If the honourable member has a question about that now, he can have it and then he can ask about it.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** Thank you very much.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** That second question you asked, we are trying to get an answer to that. I think Mr Cameron will provide a response to that.

**Mr Cameron:** Thank you for the question, member. I refer to page 364 and current assets. The restricted cash in the RTTA is the second line down. That indicates that for 2019–20 the estimate is \$27 671 000. That does rise in the out years—\$41 346 000, \$43 752 000 and \$65 173 000. That is a very normal and typical pattern. That means that we have estimated the revenues that are coming in. The member may be aware that each year the Road Safety Council makes recommendations to the minister. Those out years do not yet represent full allocations from the trust account because there are a number of programs, if they have a staffing component and whether ongoing commitments have been made, they are in there, but this is the balance of the fund that is not yet allocated for those out years. The reason it goes up in the out years is because the road trauma trust account program is an annual recommendation to the minister, so those figures will change over time.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** I see. Is it possible to provide a consolidated list of projects recommended by the Road Safety Council for funding from the RTTA whether they are approved or not?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Mr Cameron.

**Mr Cameron:** That attachment is the projects. There was nothing there that the council recommended that has not eventually ended up being funded in this year.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** Thanks for that. Finally, just very briefly, back to police. Again, I refer to the asset investment program. The police station down at Fremantle in the CBD, as police stations go, is a very good, old bank and unfit for purpose. Have we got any advanced plans for better accommodation down there?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I am going to ask Mr Pasquale to reply to that.

**Mr Pasquale:** Actually earlier this year there was an expression-of-interest process facilitated by the Department of Finance to explore alternative accommodation arrangements for the Fremantle policing facilities in the region. That EOI is under a deliberative process now in terms of short-listing and looking at what the respondents have put forward, whether they are fit for purpose or not. That process is still in train. It is expected shortly that the Department of Finance will conclude that process and then we will have options to put forward to government for consideration in terms of what the cost could be to actually instigate some of those options that are put forward.

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN:** In reality, we are looking at a few years are we, before occupation?

**Mr Pasquale:** It depends on what options are put forward, whether they are existing accommodation options that would require a refit, for example, or a fit-out or whether it is a ground-up opportunity. I am not necessarily privy to the details in that regard. Depending on the nature of the options available, some could take longer than others, but clearly policing requirements from an accommodation perspective are quite unique. It is not going to be something that we are going to find accommodation that meets the business requirements. It will require either a special build or a special fit-out. It is likely to take a reasonable amount of time to accommodate those requirements.

**Hon SAMANTHA ROWE:** I have one question, and it is around youth policing. I refer to page 355 in budget paper No 2, volume 2, specifically around youth policing and reducing youth offending and ways we might be able to divert youth from the judicial process. Is the minister able to give us any advice on what actions have occurred or are being taken in ways that we can divert youth from offending throughout WA?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I will ask Assistant Commissioner Whiteley to comment on that.

**Ms Whiteley:** Just in relation to youth policing, more recently internally within the WA police we have done some minor realignment and prioritising of our efforts. We now have what has more recently been named a youth division that will see some 35 officers focus on working across the state with our network of youth crime intervention officers and our youth policing officers. The intention is to make sure that we have robust strategies and opportunities to divert and intervene those young children that are falling by the wayside and are exposed to potentially getting caught in the justice system. We are also working very closely with other community groups and organisations such as police and community youth centres, so looking for opportunities to work with them in providing diversion intervention programs. Those children returning from detention and so on all require those opportunities to actually reintegrate into the community and also be diverted from being entrenched into the system.

[12.50 pm]

So, it is our primary focus. It is also one of the commissioner's key intents, in that we must focus on reducing youth offending across the board. It also obviously aligns with the government's intention of reducing youth reoffending.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** If I can add to that, in this year's budget there is increased funding for PCYCs—for the federation. Also, as Hon Ken Baston would be aware, the government has announced an expanded service in Broome and also a new PCYC facility in Kununurra, and investment, I think, of \$1 million, if I am correct, in relation to Carnarvon. They are also part of a package in this state budget as well.

**Hon COLIN TINCKNELL:** I want to get some understanding about reduction of numbers in full-time equivalent employees. We have seen it gradually declining all the way through. I am referring to metropolitan policing services on



page 358. We see where it was in 2017–18 and where we are going to end up in 2019–20, and it is just a gradual decline. I would like to try to get some explanation of why this is happening and what we can do about it.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Thank you for your question, member. I will ask Mr Pasquale whether he can respond.

**Mr Pasquale:** As the budget papers identify, there are a couple of reductions from 2017–18 to 2018–19, and then it increases to 2019–20. The reductions are primarily associated with previous discussions about the voluntary severance program where there is a period of time when officers have been severed and now we are in a process where those officers are being reinstated through the re-establishment process. That is the fundamental reason for the initial reduction. Also, there have been some structural changes from the estimated 2018–19 actual to the 2018–19 budget, and a large part of that is primarily the result of transfers of some functions that previously sat within the metropolitan district and have been shifted out. They comprise the major events coordination unit, mounted and canine sections and district control from metropolitan policing services to specialist policing services as part of the operational restructure that has been discussed here this morning.

**Hon TJORN SIBMA:** In a similar vein, can I just clarify, sir, you referred to the VTSS officers transitioning out and then being reinstated. Did I hear that correctly?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** That relates to police officers. Yes, there has been commitment to replace those police officers.

**Hon TJORN SIBMA:** The positions have been reinstated, but not the individuals?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** The positions.

**Hon TJORN SIBMA:** Okay, thank you.

Following up from the previous question, I look at the service summary overall and the explanation provided for the reduction in spend on the metropolitan police services line was, in part, that functions had been transferred across different services. Nevertheless, last year the total cost of services was \$1.555 billion. The estimate for 2020–21 is \$1.517 billion, which represents about a \$40 million decline. Can I get a breakdown of what has been lost as a consequence of that \$40 million cut?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Somebody will find that. Are you looking at a page?

**Hon TJORN SIBMA:** I am looking at page 356, the service summary table, “Total Cost of Services”, and my question pertains to what justifies the reduction of nearly \$40 million between the 2018–19 budget and the 2020–21 forward estimate in the total cost of services line.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I appreciate that, again, because our notes are linked to the lines. Mr Pasquale, are you in a position to provide an answer to that?

**Mr Pasquale:** I am going to have to do that in two steps, because you are skipping a couple of columns. If I can first talk about the movement between the 2018–19 estimated actual to the 2019–20 budget, which sees an increase in the order of \$30.4 million, that is primarily representative of some of the new policy decisions that have been made in the 2019–20 budget. For example, for that particular year there is \$8.4 million for digital policing, about \$6.4 million for grants to do with PCYCs, \$2.1 million in one-off funding for stopping family and domestic violence, and some reflows of capital funding in the order of \$10.2 million particularly related around the department’s response to implementing GovNext. When we then go to the next year, we are moving between the 2019–20 budget estimate and the 2020–21 forward estimate, we see a decrease of almost \$44 million. This is mainly due to one-off funding allocated in 2019–20 that does not flow onto 2020–21. In the main, you will see that there is a forecast that the department was anticipating to spend about \$20 million less this year than what it originally anticipated. There are some cost pressures in 2019–20. The government has recognised those cost pressures and has supported the re-flowing of \$30 million from 2018–19 to 2019–20, so that is a once-off adjustment. There is also the capital funding reflow of the \$10.2 million, which, again, is a once off, so that explains the reduction.

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN:** Just a question regarding, firstly, page 356 of budget paper No 2, volume 2, “Regional and Remote Policing Services”. It is said in the notes that —

Changes in income between the 2017–18 Actual, 2018–19 Budget and 2018–19 Estimated Actual mainly relate to the timing of a Commonwealth grant provided for officer accommodation, office space and child-friendly interview rooms in remote Western Australia.

What is the nature of that grant? When was it announced and received? How much was it? To what extent is it influenced the figures in the budget?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Mr Pasquale is the right person to answer the question. I understand he is just trying to find the information. The member referred to page 356.

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN:** It was page 358, sorry.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** We have a note here. We are just trying to find it for you.

**Mr Pasquale:** I have some detail in terms of explaining the movement of income from two different years. The movement between the 2017–18 actual and 2018–19 budget is \$3.9 million, and that is primarily related to the timing of a commonwealth grant provided for officer accommodation, office space and child-friendly interview rooms in remote WA. The exact share of that \$3.9 million in relation to that particular commonwealth initiative is \$3.75 million.

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN:** And the other reduction?

**Mr Pasquale:** The movement between the 2018–19 estimated actual and the 2019–20 budget, which is a \$2.3 million reduction is obviously the cessation of that same funding, so it is once-off funding that is not ongoing. Of that \$2.3 million, the main reduction is to do with the \$3.75 million no longer continuing.

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN:** To what extent does this affect the accommodation and contribution made by police officers towards their housing in remote areas? Are they expected to make up the shortfall?

**Mr Pasquale:** This has no relationship at all. This is around a commonwealth funding initiative to upgrade, as I understand it, facilities in the regions in relation to providing better policing capabilities.

**Mr CRAIG WARD:** It is referred to as visiting officer accommodation, so it is where we need to surge people into a remote location and they have not got the opportunity to return to their home base. There is accommodation to allow those people to stay overnight and be accommodated in that remote location.

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN:** I have one further question relating to page 360 regarding the Armadale courthouse and police complex. Firstly, which is the lead agency dealing with that?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I understand that Police is the lead agency.

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN:** Given that this project was announced, I think, in 2016, why has it taken so long to start commencing construction in the 2019–20 financial year?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I can confirm that government has committed \$85.8 million, so \$78.8 million in capital, \$5.2 million in land purchase and about \$1.8 million in project planning to build that Armadale courthouse and police complex, following the completion of the design and accommodation brief. It will replace facilities that are over 30 years old that are no longer suitable for that purpose. It will be designed to accommodate up to 315 police officers and staff, and construction is planned to start in 2019–20. The new facility is expected to open in 2022. I understand that a fair bit of planning has gone into this. It is a significant building and will be a significant facility, but we are pleased that construction is planned to start in 2019–20.

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN:** All right, when in 2019–20 is it planned to commence? As I say, the project itself was announced some time in 2016 and I think money had been allocated for that.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I am checking whether we have an exact date. Look, noting the time —

**The CHAIR:** I am waiting for this question to be concluded and then I will do my job and close.

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN:** If you are not able to provide the answer conveniently now —

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** I was just going to suggest that we will provide that by way of supplementary information.

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN:** And whatever other information about the status of the project you can provide, I will take that on notice.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON:** Construction is estimated to commence in October 2019.

**The CHAIR:** On behalf of the committee, I thank you for your attendance today. The committee will forward the transcript of evidence, which includes the questions you have taken on notice highlighted on the transcript, within seven days of the hearing. If members have any unasked questions, I ask you to submit them via the electronic lodgement system on the POWAnet site by 5.00 pm, Friday, 28 June. Responses to those questions and any questions taken on notice today are due by 5.00 pm, Friday, 26 July. Should you be unable to meet this due date, please advise the committee in writing as soon as possible before the due date. The advice is to include specific reasons as to why the due date cannot be met. Once again, I thank you for your attendance today.

**Hearing concluded at 1.03 pm**

---