

POLICE — COPPER THEFT

914. Hon RICK MAZZA to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

It has been brought to my attention that the new copper buyer's licence requirement will cost \$6 000 for three years.

- (1) Can the minister confirm whether that information is correct?
- (2) If yes to (1), how was the licence amount determined?
- (3) Can the government provide the cost recovery calculation for the licence fee; and, if not, why not?
- (4) Are licence holders entitled to a pro rata refund if their licence is cancelled within the three-year term?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The following answer has been provided to me by the Minister for Police.

Copper theft costs the Western Australian community millions of dollars and leaves a trail of destruction and damage. For too long, this crime and its aftermath were ignored by the former Liberal–National government.

- (1) Licence fees depend on the length of the licence and the number of transactions. For example, a one-year licence allowing up to 49 transactions costs \$1 057 and a three-year licence allowing over 150 transactions costs \$6 048.
- (2)–(3) Licence fees are charged in accordance with the table of fees in the Pawnbrokers and Second-hand Dealers Regulations 1996 and are subject to review by Parliament. The cost of administering the licensing scheme is taken into account when the fees are set, with the Western Australia Police Force advising the current fees are generally less than 75 per cent of cost recovery.
- (4) Yes, in certain circumstances. The WA Police Force advises that regulation 30 of the Pawnbrokers and Second-hand Dealers Regulations 1996 provides that if the business to which a licence relates ceases to be conducted for any reason other than because the licence has been revoked or suspended, the licensee is entitled to be refunded the amount that is the difference between the fee paid and the fee that would have been applicable to the licence if it had been issued or renewed for the period ending on the day on which the conduct of the business ceased.