GOVERNMENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY — CYBER ATTACKS

1034.   Hon TJORN SIBMA to the Minister for Innovation and ICT:

I refer to the state government's cybersecurity policies and capability in the wake of cyber attacks on Optus and Medibank. What is the state government doing to maintain the integrity of its own systems and to protect the data, including the private details of Western Australian residents, it collects?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

The state government has taken a number of steps to improve the capability and capacity of the Western Australian public sector to maintain the integrity of its systems and to protect its data, including but not limited to developing and implementing the WA government's cybersecurity policy, which sets out clear obligations for WA public sector entities, as well as the requirement to periodically report on the progress being made by agencies to implement the policy; the establishment of the WA government's Cyber Security Operations Centre to detect, protect and respond to cyberthreats across the public sector; the establishment of the WA government's cybersecurity incident response coordination framework to ensure that the public sector can appropriately respond to cyber incidents; allocating additional resources to the Office of Digital Government to deliver cybersecurity uplift initiatives, including providing technical cybersecurity services to WA public sector entities and facilitating cybersecurity awareness training; working in an effective partnership with commonwealth government agencies as part of the WA government's active participation in national cybersecurity incident response arrangements; implementing the WA government information classification policy, which requires WA public sector entities to identify risks and apply appropriate controls to protect, store and share their information assets; and contributing funding to the Cyber Security Cooperative Research Centre at Edith Cowan University to develop innovative approaches to counter emerging cyberthreats.