

POLICE — OPERATION REGIONAL SHIELD

130. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Two years after the Premier launched Operation Regional Shield to combat the crisis in the Kimberley, we had a crisis in Kalgoorlie and he deployed that operation there. When are we going to see a long-term plan to combat the rising tide of crime in regional WA?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I think it is very important to reflect on the level of criminal activity in Western Australia under our government compared with when the coalition was in government.

Mr R.S. Love: Take responsibility for what is happening in your government. It is happening under your government.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr R.H. COOK: That is right. Let me tell the Leader of the Opposition what has happened under my government. There has been a decrease in overall criminal offences compared with 2019 when crime peaked under the Liberals and Nationals. In 2023, compared to 2016, there was a 53 per cent decrease in dwelling burglaries; a 26 per cent decrease in motor vehicle theft; a 20 per cent decrease in property damage; and a 33 per cent decrease in drug offences.

We can see that not only are the resources, the policies of my government and the laws that we bring into being doing such an important job for Western Australians, but also we see amazing police officers day in, day out doing great work on behalf of this community. They are doing an incredible job on behalf of all Western Australians. That is the reason we have seen such a significant decrease in criminal activity under my watch.