

POLICE COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE

**407. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Police:**

Will the minister provide details to the House of the new police communications centre and advise how this will improve the Police Service?

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members! I thought all members would want to know the answer to this question, so let us hear it and we will be able to move on.

**Hon PETER FOSS replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question, which I also find extremely interesting because it vitally concerns my electorate. The new police communications centre will be established at the Midland railway workshops site, and the anticipated completion date is September 2001. The purpose-built centre will feature state-of-the-art facilities and technologies to support the new computer aided dispatch and communications system being introduced by the Western Australia Police Service. The CADCOM services will replace the existing “home grown” analogue radio network with a leading edge digital trunk radio network, incorporating automatic vehicle location and geographic information systems.

In totality, the new facilities will improve a service to the community, enabling faster and more efficient response to calls for police assistance. Improved communication and access to data will enable police officers in the field to be better informed and prepared when they attend the scene of incidents. The management information available through the system will provide for enhanced utilisation of available police resources. In addition, the technologies provide for enhanced officer safety and security of information.