

POLICE — OPERATION TIDE

214. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I am sorry; I am tangled up in my mask. Forgive me.

I refer to comments made by Commissioner of Police Chris Dawson on 6PR on 9 March when he admitted to halving the number of police officers assigned to the COVID-19 related Operation Tide, and doing so in the week preceding the interview.

- (1) How is the commissioner's decision consistent with the inferred elevation of community risk presented by the Premier's decision to implement level 2 COVID restrictions on 28 February?
- (2) When did the commissioner advise the Premier of his decision to reassign half of the Operation Tide force back to frontline policing duties?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1)–(2) Operation Tide was established by the WA Police Force in March 2020 to support Western Australia's response to COVID-19 and has performed an exceptional job to help keep the Western Australian community safe throughout the pandemic. Operation Tide has played a crucial role to ensure that the state of emergency measures, based on public health advice, have been implemented in a calm and considered manner. I note that the member does not support the public health advice and measures taken to keep the WA community safe.

Hon Tjorn Sibma interjected.

Hon SUE ELLERY: I don't know; masks, mate.

The deployment of resources is an operational matter that is the responsibility of the Commissioner of Police. The full border opening on 3 March resulted in fewer resources being required to manage the border. However, the work of Operation Tide continues.