

STATE BUDGET 2011–12 — REGIONAL POLICE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

**480. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the minister representing the Minister for Police:**

I refer to spending changes announced in the 2011–12 state budget relating to the provision of police communications technology in the regions.

- (1) Is the community safety network–regional radio network listed under another name in the 2011–12 state budget?
- (2) A total of \$80 million was allocated from royalties for regions last year for the regional radio network. Are the moneys listed in this year’s budget part of that \$80 million or an additional allocation?
- (3) Can the minister confirm that the radio network is being rolled out in stages; and, if so, what regions will be prioritised and why?
- (4) Why will the rollout not be completed until 2016?

**Hon PETER COLLIER replied:**

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

- (1) No.
- (2) The amount of \$80.3 million was listed in the 2010–11 budget papers in the Commerce “Asset Investment Program” tables on page 874 as “Royalties for Regions – Regional Communications Project”. The amount of \$80.3 million in the 2011–12 budget papers reflects the transfer of these funds from the royalties for regions fund to WA Police, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority, and the Department of Corrective Services.
- (3) Yes. A trunked radio network will be delivered to the regional centres of Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Albany and the Pilbara coast over the initial two years of the project and will include integration of FESA and DCS onto this network. A conventional digital radio network throughout the remainder of regional WA will be deployed in parallel with the trunked radio network. It is being rolled out in stages due to technical requirements.
- (4) The rollout has been phased to accommodate the management of site works and infrastructure activities at each location.