

SAFEWA APP — ACCESS — POLICE INVESTIGATION

208. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Premier, do you concede that your government's breach of trust with the Western Australian community will now make it far more difficult to ensure that people use the SafeWA app, a vital line of defence in any future COVID-19 outbreak?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

No, I do not. I will just explain it again. Over the course of the last 18 months, we have had to act very quickly to do all sorts of things—scores, if not hundreds of things—the health minister and I in particular, but also senior officers within the public sector. The police commissioner has been simply outstanding in the work that he has done. Our health officials, our public servants, people across government, they have all been outstanding. The results are there for all to see. We have one of the best results in both a health sense and economically of anywhere in the entire world, probably the best outcome of anywhere in the entire world.

Over the course of that 18 months, the Liberals and Nationals of course have undermined it the whole way along. Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: That is why there are six of you sitting there out of 59.

Ms M.J. Davies: You are deflecting, Premier; this was your mistake.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Have a look at yourselves and the way you have behaved over the course of the last 18 months.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: We are in the High Court today with Clive Palmer, your friend, who was part of that undermining with you. One half of the Liberal Party is complaining over there, and the other half of the Liberal Party sits silent. That is because they are having this war, where one is trying to out the other as being responsible for their disastrous energy policy. Look at them—sitting there not even looking at one another!

We put in place measures very quickly to try to deal with an extraordinary situation. We did our best in difficult circumstances. It came to our attention that on two occasions out of over 200 million uses of the app, police had sought information in particular in relation to a murder. We did not want that to happen, because we want people to have confidence in the app. But I do understand that police have a duty and a role to perform, particularly to solve murders. That is what has occurred. We tried to resolve it in a sort of negotiated way, but the police abide by the law as it currently stands. So we are now seeking to amend the law to put the issue completely beyond doubt. That is what has occurred. We have come out and explained it. We have not left it hidden. We have not left it behind closed doors. We have come out and explained it. We just want to be clear and honest and open with the people of Western Australia that it is safe to use the app, and that we are doing the best we can in difficult circumstances, but we have the utmost respect for the police and the job they do.