

BUNBURY POLICE — TWITTER

1021. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is the minister aware of reports that Bunbury police are using Twitter to find out whether people feel unsafe in the city at night?
- (2) How long has this practice been in use?
- (3) What results is the hashtag #BunPoliceCBD producing?
- (4) How is the hashtag monitored for people who are in danger, or who are reporting a crime?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Police, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) WA Police use social media, including Twitter, to engage with the local community and assess community perceptions on public safety and other policing issues.
- (2) Bunbury police have been using social media to engage with the community since 20 September 2014.
- (3) WA Police confirm that there have been no replies to the initial tweet, with just two retweets from the local media.
- (4) Social media is not the appropriate means to request police assistance, nor is it promoted for that purpose. Calls for assistance, in all cases, must be made via 131 444 or 000.