

ANIMAL ACTIVISM

**83. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Police:**

I refer to the Minister for Agriculture and Food's statement in the other place yesterday on animal activist behaviour, specifically that the WA Police Force will be meeting with industry stakeholders to address the matter, including WAFarmers, the Pastoralists and Graziers Association and the Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association.

- (1) Who initiated this meeting, and when was it requested?
- (2) Has the minister sought advice from police on incidents relating to this type of activity; and, if so, when did the minister ask for that advice?
- (3) What has the minister done to assure herself that current laws are sufficient and police are appropriately resourced to respond to this escalating pattern of behaviour?

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS replied:**

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(3) I have had a couple of conversations with the Commissioner of Police about this issue, and I think my office has also spoken to others within the WA Police Force. Specifically, the commissioner has advised me that Assistant Commissioner Smallpage, who heads up regional operations, is across this issue. I understand —

**Mrs L.M. Harvey:** A very good man.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** Sorry; did you say he is a good man?

**Mrs L.M. Harvey:** Yes.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** He is a highly competent, long-serving officer. As you would know, Mr Speaker, he heads up our operations in regional Western Australia; indeed, I saw Mr Smallpage only recently in Albany.

The assurance I have received is that Mr Smallpage is right across this issue and that he has been speaking with the relevant people. I understand he has set up a meeting for next week that will include representatives of the PGA and others. The Commissioner of Police and I have full confidence in Mr Smallpage making sure that farmers and anyone else who needs support because of the activities that have been happening will get that support from the Western Australia Police Force.