

POLICE — RESOURCES

741. Mr P.C. TINLEY to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's unprecedented investment in modern resources and frontline police, keeping Western Australians safe.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house what equipment and support capabilities this investment has delivered to our police?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how this investment is allowing police to better respond to emergency situations and crime in our community?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for his question. Some of the equipment that we revealed the other day would have no doubt appealed to him. We recently went out and confirmed delivery to the Western Australia Police Force tactical response group of additional equipment and world class upgrades to their BearCat armoured vehicles. These ones are petrol, the member would be happy to know, and much more comfortable, to the extent that they smell like brand new cars and inside they even had cup holders for the driver and the passenger, which struck me as a very good improvement. We also announced for the TRG new rigid-hulled inflatable boats, built in Western Australia. They are excellent boats—absolutely the best quality for our TRG and tactical officers who attend so many high level responses. They confront some challenging situations, like the recent Kellerberrin incident for instance, and many others. Almost every couple of days, the TRG is deployed. It does not always use this equipment, but we ensure that it has the best equipment necessary to support it when it does.

As people would have noted, we have also taken delivery of a \$54 million H145 Airbus helicopter, a world-class addition to the police air wing. Another one is coming later in the year. This confirms to everyone in the chamber that our police are continuing to be delivered with the absolute best equipment possible. Madam Speaker started it in the first term of this government with an extraordinary upgrade to our police force, body armour and the rollout of OneForce mobile phones, which brought an extraordinary change in capability. People do not recognise or understand the extent to which that changed policing in this state. Every police officer is now connected directly to databases and intelligence, the likes of which would never have been afforded to a police officer on the ground in the past, ensuring that they have exceptional situational awareness. They share information and people know where each other are located and convey that information. We are in the process of rolling out satellite communications to 550 vehicles and 139 police stations across the state to ensure that police and communities in the regions receive the very same connectivity as metropolitan residents and police officers. That is an extraordinary thing. It is a wonderful continuation of our commitment to ensure that not only do we have the best police force in the nation if not the world, but also we are equipping them at that level.