

POLICING — CAPEL REGION

274. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Police:

Having heard the minister's previous dribble, I now refer to a community meeting of 150 people.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, members!

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I will start again, as a lot of people did not hear that. I refer to a community meeting of 150 people held in Capel last month in relation to crime and law and order issues. Why will the minister not provide the people of Capel with a police station, and why is it okay to allocate \$70 million to a city museum ahead of important country facilities such as police stations?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON replied:

The member for Collie–Preston is a glutton for punishment. He really is a glutton for punishment. As I have explained time and again, the public meeting in Capel that the member organised —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, members!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The member for Collie–Preston did not, until the last minute, ask the district superintendent to come to that meeting to talk to those people; it was not until the last minute that he was asked.

Mr C.J. Barnett: He might have arrested him for something.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Exactly; yes. I reckon he would have wanted to check the member for Collie–Preston's boot. That was the trouble; he did not want his boot to be checked.

Mr M.P. Murray: Keep digging that hole, sunshine.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: You can call me sunshine if you like, but I tell you what; you will be seeing a lot more sunshine after the election. The member for Collie–Preston will be able to go out with the bag that he puts his marron in. He will be able to go walkabout whenever he likes. Absolute nonsense! The member for Collie–Preston really needs to do better than this and come up with a question that is actually relevant.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: It has been shown —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I think the member for Collie–Preston and I might share one commonality; that is, sometimes we find things difficult to hear. I would like to give the opportunity to the member for Collie–Preston to hear the minister's response. I would also like to hear the minister's response. It might be a suggestion to most of you to remain a little quieter.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I will conclude by simply saying that the Capel area is patrolled 24/7 by police officers from Bunbury, as the member is well aware.

Mr M.P. Murray: It takes 25 minutes to get from Bunbury to Capel.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: It does not matter. They are out on the road. Every police car now is a mobile police station. The member for Collie–Preston knows that, or he should do.

Ms L.L. Baker interjected.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: If the member for Maylands wants to ask a question, she should ask a question.

The amount of crime in that area is absolutely minimal. The number of calls for assistance in that area is absolutely minimal.

Mr M.P. Murray: They have given up ringing.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: That is being well and truly addressed by the patrols that come out of Bunbury. The member for Collie–Preston knows that and I know that. All he is trying to do is to whip up a bit of hysteria in that area, which is completely unjustified. If that is the best the member for Collie–Preston can do, it was nice knowing him!

