

POLICE — RURAL STOCK SQUAD

790. Hon RICK MAZZA to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

An amount of \$252 700 that previously supported the activities of the rural stock squad was transferred from WA Police to the Department of Agriculture and Food in 2011–12.

- (1) For what purpose was the funding intended?
- (2) Are these funds transferred between WA Police and DAFWA on an annual basis or are they now directly apportioned by Treasury as part of DAFWA's Budget?
- (3) Has the transfer in funding resulted in a decrease in reporting of stock theft to WA Police?
- (4) What is the clearance rate for cases of stock theft across Western Australia?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

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

- (1) The funding was provided to assist livestock crime investigation and to enhance the service delivery of both agencies in relation to these investigations.
- (2) In August 2011, a section 25 transfer of appropriation was completed to transfer the ongoing funding from WA Police to the Department of Agriculture and Food.
- (3) The provision of the requested information would require a manual review of each incident reported to WA Police to determine whether the matter referred to livestock or theft of another non-livestock animal. This is a manual and resource-intensive process, and WA Police is not able to provide a response in the time frame.
- (4) The WA Police incident management system records the offence of stealing of animals under section 372 of the Criminal Code. To determine a specific clearance rate for livestock, WA Police would have to manually review each recorded incident to determine whether the matter referred to livestock or theft of another non-livestock animal.