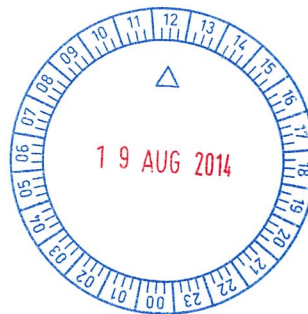




Minister for Police; Tourism;
Road Safety; Women's Interests

Our Ref: 45-09311

Hon Simon O'Brien MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Legislative Council Committee Office
18-32 Parliament Place
WEST PERTH WA 6000



Dear Mr O'Brien *Simon*

Thank you for your letter of 19 June 2014 in relation to Petition Number 36 - Crime Prevention in Greater Geraldton, which was referred to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs.

The petition seeks a range of issues including additional police numbers in Geraldton, curfews for young offenders and offers suggestions for diversionary programs to assist in the management of offenders. I understand the group responsible for the petition has provided its support for local police and clarified that their main aim is to influence court sentencing of offenders.

Western Australia Police have advised that crime trends in Geraldton are closely monitored by local police, with resources allocated and focused to meet these demands. It has also been noted that juvenile offenders are primarily responsible for the majority of volume crime offences.

On 28 January 2014, Western Australia Police implemented Operation Nighthawk, which targeted key offences such as burglary and stealing motor vehicles. The operation resulted in 64 arrests and 240 associated charges.

On 25 June 2014, Operation Telepathic commenced and focused on local offenders linked to volume crime. Operation Telepathic included the involvement of partner agencies including the Department for Child Protection and Family Support, the Department of Corrective Services (Youth) and the Department of Education to address the causes of juvenile offending. Operation Telepathic yielded the arrest and summons of 104 individuals, with a total of 110 charges within an initial two week period. Where appropriate, restrictive bail conditions were applied for, with referrals made to partner agencies responsible for managing juvenile social issues and diversionary programs.

In relation to community concerns regarding stolen off road vehicles, Geraldton Police have established access to restricted bush areas in close partnership with the City of Greater Geraldton. It should be noted that it is Western Australia Police policy not to pursue offenders on unsealed roads and tracks due to the risk to police officers, members of the public and to offenders themselves.

I am further advised that Western Australia Police have met with the Mayor and CEO of the City of Greater Geraldton to discuss strategies on crime prevention within the community. Geraldton Police have embraced social media as a way to increase public accessibility. The media marketing by Western Australia Police has also been streamlined and restructured to promote greater information exchange and availability between the community and police.

I understand Western Australia Police attempted to contact the promoter of the petition, Mrs Rosemary Langridge, to discuss her concerns. Unfortunately, these attempts were unsuccessful.

I thank you for bringing this matter to my attention and trust the information you have received is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



**LIZA HARVEY MLA
MINISTER FOR POLICE; TOURISM;
ROAD SAFETY; WOMEN'S INTERESTS**

15 AUG 2014