

COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING 2011 — POLICE COMMAND CENTRE

**Dr M.D. NAHAN to the Minister for Police:**

As CHOGM is fast approaching, can the minister please update the house as to the readiness of the Western Australian police force to ensure the safety of the Western Australian community and visiting dignitaries, including Her Majesty the Queen?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON replied:**

I thank the member for the question. Of course, many people will have seen the television news last Friday, which showed that I went with Hon Stephen Smith, federal minister and member for Perth, to have a good look at and tour of the new facility. What we see there is an old gymnasium that has been —

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cannington, I formally call you to order for the first time today.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** What we see is an old gymnasium that has been transformed into a world-class communications and command centre. That is what we have now in Maylands. I have to say that WA Police has done a tremendous job in a very short space of time. It will be home for about 100 personnel during the CHOGM period and will certainly keep safe not only Her Majesty the Queen, but also the visiting dignitaries, as well as, of course, the Western Australian community, which is very, very important.

**Mr E.S. Ripper:** Who funded it?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The Leader of the Opposition can ask a question when he is ready. I am answering a question from the member for Riverton.

This particular security and command centre, as I have said, is absolutely world class. Not only Hon Stephen Smith, but also the member for Maylands was there, and I think I can safely say that the member for Maylands very much enjoyed the visit to that particular facility and appreciated the benefits that it will have in her electorate. I am told that the houses of the people who live in that area very rarely get broken into because the police are coming and going all the time. However, the beauty of it is that that command centre will remain after CHOGM.

WA Police officers have carried out various exercises using the command centre, such as escorting various vehicles and controlling traffic movement. They link up with closed-circuit television throughout the whole of the metropolitan area and, indeed, in-car CCTV, which will be available in the cavalcade that will travel from both the international and domestic airports. There are video screens on the wall of the centre. If any members get a chance to go to look at them, I suggest they do so because it is very enlightening. They are huge video screens on the wall, and in actual fact they span 30 metres. They are all online with those CCTV facilities.

I am very pleased, and I think everybody should be very pleased, that the WA Police has done an outstanding job; it has stepped up to the mark. I am confident that it will do a tremendous job in safeguarding not only Her Majesty the Queen and the visiting dignitaries, but also the WA community. We must not forget that it is the community that we also have to protect should there be any problems or demonstrations, or any illegal activities. WA police officers will be great in numbers during that time. As I said, after CHOGM, we will get the benefits of having those extra officers who will be able to be deployed to help cut down the little spike in crime that we are seeing at the moment.