

MEDIA STATEMENT



Murray Cowper MLA

**Shadow Minister for Industrial
Relations; Emergency Services;
Member for Murray**

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No more Allannah's private police force :Transit officers expected to do policing for less than police pay

Shadow minister for Emergency Services Murray Cowper has called on the State Government to bring Perth's transit officers under the dominion of the WA Police Commissioner to ensure that train commuters receive adequate protection.

He says that expecting transit officers to conduct the work of police officers whilst not being paid or given the status of police officers puts them in a position that is fundamentally unjust.

"Whilst our police are getting bashed and assaulted, can you blame a transit officer for not wanting to get the same treatment for less pay?"

"The Government keeps coming out with these tough on crime strategies on our trains : banning repeat violent offenders, stamping out graffiti – I ask them who they expect to be responsible for these moves?"

"It appears to me that transit officers would be the only ones in the position to recognise repeat offenders since they would be the ones who get to know those frequenting the train system."

"However the pay these transit officers are receiving does not recompense them for asking them to confront these violent offenders and remove them from our trains."

"It is unfortunately just another example of a pre-election bid to sound tough, without committing the necessary resources to support their utopian ideas."

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