
JURISDICTION : CORONER'S COURT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
ACT : CORONERS ACT 1996
CORONER : MICHAEL ANDREW GLIDDON JENKIN, CORONER
HEARD : 19 APRIL 2024
DELIVERED : 26 APRIL 2024
FILE NO/S : CORC 1730 of 2022
DECEASED : BULLOCK, WARREN JOHN

Catchwords:

Nil

Legislation:

Nil

Counsel Appearing:

Mr W Stops appeared to assist the coroner.

Ms P Femia (State Solicitor's Office) appeared on behalf of the Western Australian Police Force.

SUPPRESSION ORDER

On the basis it would be contrary to the public interest, I make an Order under s49(1)(b) *Coroners Act 1996* that there be no reporting or publication of the details of any of the versions of the WA Police Emergency Driving Policy and Guidelines, including, but not limited to, any cap on the speed at which police officers are authorised to drive.

Order made by Coroner MAG Jenkin (19.04.24)

Coroners Act 1996
(Section 26(1))

RECORD OF INVESTIGATION INTO DEATH

I, Michael Andrew Gliddon Jenkin, Coroner, having investigated the death of Warren John BULLOCK with an inquest held at the Perth Coroner’s Court, Central Law Courts, Court 85, 501 Hay Street, Perth on 19 April 2024 find that the identity of the deceased person was Warren John BULLOCK and that death occurred on 1 July 2022 at a cycleway underpass near the intersection of Lakes Road and Kwinana Freeway, Stake Hill from cardiac arrhythmia in a man with methylamphetamine effect and cardiomegaly in the following circumstances:

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION3
MR BULLOCK.....4
Background.....4
EVENTS LEADING TO MR BULLOCK’S DEATH5
Incident on 12 June 20225
Police attempt to intercept Mr Bullock.....5
Police lose sight of Mr Bullock.....7
Mr Bullock is located and resuscitation efforts7
CAUSE OF DEATH9
SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATIONS..... 10
Police intercept driving policy..... 10
Drug and alcohol testing 11
Homicide Squad investigation 11
Major Crash Investigation Section investigation 11
Internal Affairs Unit review..... 12
COMMENTS ON THE ACTIONS OF POLICE..... 13
CONCLUSION 14

INTRODUCTION

1. Warren John Bullock (Mr Bullock) died near a cycleway underpass near the intersection of Lakes Road and the Kwinana Freeway in Stake Hill on 1 July 2022, from cardiac arrhythmia in a man with methylamphetamine effect and cardiomegaly. He was 49 years of age.^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7}
2. Shortly before his death, Mr Bullock was briefly pursued by police and he drove his vehicle north on Kwinana Freeway. However, police lost sight of Mr Bullock and terminated the intercept, and about 11 minutes later, Mr Bullock crashed his vehicle and had a cardiac event as he attempted to flee from the scene.
3. Pursuant to the *Coroners Act 1996* (WA) (Coroners Act) Mr Bullock's death was a "reportable death".⁸ Further, pursuant to section 22(1)(b) of the Act, because Mr Bullock's death may have been caused or contributed to by a member of the Western Australia Police Force (WA Police), a coronial inquest is mandatory.⁹
4. I held an inquest into Mr Bullock's death in Perth on 19 April 2024. The documentary evidence adduced at the inquest comprised one volume, and included reports by WA Police's Internal Affairs Unit (IAU)¹⁰ and the Coronial Investigation Squad (CIS)¹¹ concerning the circumstances of Mr Bullock's death.
5. The inquest focussed on the conduct of police officers involved in the attempted intercept and the circumstances of Mr Bullock's death.

¹ Exhibit 1, Vol.1, Tab 1, P100 - Report of Death (03.07.22)

² Exhibit 1, Vol.1, Tab 3, P98 - Mortuary Admission Form (01.07.22)

³ Exhibit 1, Vol.1, Tab 4.1, Affidavit - Police Auxiliary Officer S Ferguson (08.07.22)

⁴ Exhibit 1, Vol.1, Tab 4.2, p92 - Identification of Deceased Person Other than by Visual Means (06.07.22)

⁵ Exhibit 1, Vol.1, Tab 4.3, p92 - Identification of Deceased Person Other than by Visual Means (06.07.22)

⁶ Exhibit 1, Vol.1, Tab 4.4, Coronial Identification Report (06.07.22)

⁷ Exhibit 1, Vol.1, Tab 5.1, Supplementary Post Mortem Report (20.03.23)

⁸ Section 3, *Coroners Act 1996* (WA)

⁹ Section 22(1)(b), *Coroners Act 1996* (WA)

¹⁰ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tabs 7.1 & 7.2, Reports - Internal Affairs Unit (18.11.22)

¹¹ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 8, Report: Coronial Investigation Section Report - Mr R Fyneman (13.08.23)

6. The following witnesses gave oral evidence at the inquest:
 - a. Mr Ryan Morehead, (Mr Morehead);¹²
 - b. Sergeant Sean Burns, (Officer Burns);^{13,14}
 - c. Detective Senior Constable Heath Grinfelds, (Officer Grinfelds); and
 - d. Detective Senior Sergeant Anthony Dorosz, (Officer Dorosz).
7. Section 22(1)(b) of the Act is enlivened when the issue of causation or contribution in relation to a death arises as a question of fact, irrespective of whether there is fault or error on the part of any member of the Police.
8. I note that at the conclusion of the inquest I observed that there was nothing in the evidence before me to suggest that any police officer had contributed to or caused Mr Bullock's death.

MR BULLOCK

Background

9. Mr Bullock was born on 15 March 1973 in Sydney, and was 49 years of age at the time of his death. He had an extensive criminal history and had accumulated over 70 convictions for offences relating to the sale/supply of illicit drugs, weapons, and traffic matters. Mr Bullock was declared a “*drug trafficker*” on 5 June 2015, and he had served various periods of imprisonment in relation to some of his offences.^{15,16}
10. The Coronial Investigation Section report states that Mr Bullock “*had no mental health issues recorded*”, and that he had been treated at Royal Perth Hospital on 29 October 2013 (after hitting his head on the corner of a bunk bed), and on 12 April 2014 (in relation to multiple blows to his face and right wrist following an alleged assault at Casuarina Prison).^{17,18}

¹² At the relevant time, Mr Morehead was a Detective Sergeant employed by WA Police

¹³ At the relevant time, Sergeant Burns was a Detective Senior Constable

¹⁴ ts 19.04.24 (Burns), p14

¹⁵ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 8, Coronial Investigation Section Report - Mr R Fyneman (13.08.23), p5

¹⁶ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 24, History for Court - Criminal and Traffic

¹⁷ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 8, Report: Coronial Investigation Section Report - Mr R Fyneman (13.08.23), p5

¹⁸ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 20, Royal Perth Hospital Medical Records (UIRN C7340874)

EVENTS LEADING TO MR BULLOCK'S DEATH¹⁹

Incident on 12 June 2022^{20,21}

11. On 12 June 2022, Mr Bullock reportedly met two associates at a truck stop on Lakes Road near Stake Hill in relation to a drug debt incurred by the brother of one of the associates (the Incident). During the Incident it is alleged that Mr Bullock produced a hand gun, and discharged one round which “*skimmed*” the neck of one of the associates and hit the other in the back causing serious injuries.
12. In addition to being a suspect in relation to causing grievous bodily harm during the Incident, Mr Bullock was also a suspect in relation to the seizure of trafficable quantities of methylamphetamine at two hotels in Perth. Mr Bullock had also been seen carrying a handgun in close circuit TV footage from one of the hotels.²² As a result, Mr Bullock was the subject of a comprehensive police investigation, and at the time of his death considerable efforts were being made to locate him.

Police attempt to intercept Mr Bullock

13. On 1 July 2022, Mr Morehead was a Detective Sergeant attached to the Mandurah Detectives Rapid High Harm Offender Response team (the Team), and was on duty with Officer Burns who was also a member of the Team. Mr Morehead (a qualified pursuit driver) was driving a class 1 unmarked police vehicle, and Officer Burns was his passenger.^{23,24}
14. As a result of briefings from detectives managing the investigation into Mr Bullock's various alleged offences, Mr Morehead and Officer Burns (the Officers) were aware that Mr Bullock was suspected to be in possession of a trafficable quantity of methylamphetamine, and that he may be armed. Mr Bullock was also a suspect in relation to firearms and drug offences, and as noted, he was wanted in relation to allegedly shooting at associates during the Incident.^{25,26,27}

¹⁹ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 17, Incident report LWP22070100448033

²⁰ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 10, Report - Det. Sen. Const. J Stewart (04.07.22)

²¹ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 16, Incident report LWP22061200403715

²² ts 19.04.24 (Grinfelds), p23

²³ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 21, Statement - Mr R Morehead (09.04.24), paras 4-9 & 14 and ts 19.04.24 (Morehead), pp5-8

²⁴ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 22, Statement - Sgt. S Burns (09.04.24), paras 2-14 and ts 19.04.24 (Burns), pp14-15

²⁵ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 21, Statement - Mr R Morehead (09.04.24), para 7 & 10 and ts 19.04.24 (Morehead), pp6-7

²⁶ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 22, Statement - Sgt. S Burns (09.04.24), paras 3-6 and ts 19.04.24 (Burns), p15

²⁷ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 7.2, Report - Det. Sen. Sgt. A Dorosz (09.04.24), paras 5-9

15. Shortly before 7.00 pm on 1 July 2022, an automatic number plate activation camera detected Mr Bullock driving a Holden Maloo utility (the Vehicle) on Forrest Highway in Lake Clifton. The Vehicle was registered to one of Mr Bullock's associates, and at 9.31 pm the Officers were tasked to intercept the Vehicle, which was travelling on Lakes Road in Greenfields.^{28,29,30,31,32,33}
16. At about 9.35 pm, the Officers saw the Vehicle drive into the carpark of Peel Health Campus on Lakes Road in Mandurah, closely followed by two marked police vehicles. A short time later, Mr Bullock drove the Vehicle back onto Lakes Road and headed north at considerable speed.^{34,35}
17. Mr Morehead says the Vehicle's high speed as it emerged from the Peel Health Campus carpark indicated to him that Mr Bullock was attempting to evade police. As a result, Mr Morehead activated the emergency lights and sirens on his police car and his body worn camera and took off after the Vehicle in an effort to intercept it. Officer Burns also activated his body worn camera and communicated with the Police Operations Centre (POC) by radio.^{36,37}
18. At the time traffic in the area was light, weather conditions were dry, and street lights were illuminating the roadway.³⁸ In his statement Mr Morehead said this about why he wanted to intercept the Vehicle:

I believed that if the vehicle was not apprehended, there was a significant risk to the community due to intelligence and alert information about (Mr Bullock's) alleged involvement in the shooting incident, the firearm involved in that incident, and the alleged trafficking of commercial quantities of methylamphetamine.³⁹

²⁸ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 8, Coronial Investigation Section Report - Mr R Fyneman (13.08.23), pp2-3

²⁹ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 10, Report - Det. Sen. Const. J Stewart (04.07.22), pp 3-4

³⁰ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 21, Statement - Mr R Morehead (09.04.24), paras 15-16

³¹ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 22, Statement - Sgt. S Burns (09.04.24), paras 11-17

³² Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 7.2, Report - Det. Sen. Sgt. A Dorosz (09.04.24), paras 5-9

³³ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 11, Statement - Det. Sen. Const. H Grinfelds (30.09.22), paras 5-7

³⁴ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 21, Statement - Mr R Morehead (09.04.24), paras 17-22 and ts 19.04.24 (Morehead), pp8-10

³⁵ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 22, Statement - Sgt. S Burns (09.04.24), paras 18-20 and ts 19.04.24 (Burns), pp15-17

³⁶ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 21, Statement - Mr R Morehead (09.04.24), paras 23 & 28

³⁷ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 22, Statement - Sgt. S Burns (09.04.24), paras 18-20 & 22 and ts 19.04.24 (Burns), pp16-17

³⁸ ts 19.04.24 (Morehead), p10 and ts 19.04.24 (Burns), p17

³⁹ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 21, Statement - Mr R Morehead (09.04.24), para 24

Police lose sight of Mr Bullock

19. Although Mr Morehead had activated the emergency lights and sirens on his police car, Mr Bullock failed to stop and instead he continued driving the Vehicle at high speed east along Lakes Road towards the Kwinana Freeway. The Officers briefly lost sight of the Vehicle as it rounded a turn on Lakes Road, but sighted it again and continued the intercept. POC had authorised the Officers to intercept the Vehicle, and subsequently authorised them to exceed any posted speed limits.^{40,41,42}
20. Shortly after Mr Bullock drove onto the Kwinana Freeway and headed north, the Officers lost sight of the Vehicle again, but then saw brake lights which they assumed belonged to the Vehicle. However, as the Officers approached the brake lights, they realised it was not the Vehicle and the intercept was terminated a few minutes after it had begun. After the Officers lost sight of the Vehicle numerous other police vehicles were despatched to search for it, and by that time the police helicopter had arrived in the vicinity.^{43,44,45,46}

Mr Bullock is located and resuscitation efforts

21. At about 9.50 pm, police located the Vehicle near the Lakes Road freeway on-ramp. The Vehicle had been abandoned, and police officers then began looking for Mr Bullock in the surrounding scrub.^{47,48,49,50,51}
22. At about 10.00 pm, Officer Grinfelds was searching scrubland near a cycleway underpass about 140 m west of Kwinana Freeway. As he approached the underpass, Officer Grinfelds saw what he initially thought were blankets, but turned out to be Mr Bullock who was lying, apparently unresponsive, on the ground.⁵²

⁴⁰ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 10, Report - Det. Sen. Const. J Stewart (04.07.22), pp3-4

⁴¹ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 21, Statement - Mr R Morehead (09.04.24), paras 25-34 and ts 19.04.24 (Morehead), pp10-11

⁴² Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 22, Statement - Sgt. S Burns (09.04.24), paras 21-30 and ts 19.04.24 (Burns), p19

⁴³ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 21, Statement - Mr R Morehead (09.04.24), paras 25-39 and ts 19.04.24 (Morehead), pp11-12

⁴⁴ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 22, Statement - Sgt. S Burns (09.04.24), paras 31-35 and ts 19.04.24 (Burns), p19

⁴⁵ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 11, Statement - Det. Sen. Const. H Grinfelds (30.09.22), paras 11-12 and ts 19.04.24 (Grinfelds), pp23-24

⁴⁶ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 10, Report - Det. Sen. Const. J Stewart (04.07.22), p3

⁴⁷ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 21, Statement - Mr R Morehead (09.04.24), paras 39-44

⁴⁸ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 10, Report - Det. Sen. Const. J Stewart (04.07.22), p4

⁴⁹ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 22, Statement - Sgt. S Burns (09.04.24), paras 36-39

⁵⁰ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 11, Statement - Det. Sen. Const. H Grinfelds (30.09.22), paras 13-14 and ts 19.04.24 (Grinfelds), p24

⁵¹ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 10, Report - Det. Sen. Const. J Stewart (04.07.22), p4

⁵² Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 11, Statement - Det. Sen. Const. H Grinfelds (30.09.22), paras 15-21 and ts 19.04.24 (Grinfelds), p24

23. By this stage, a helicopter from the Police Air Wing was overhead, and after locating Mr Bullock, Officer Grinfelds backed out of the underpass and used his police radio to call for backup. Officer Grinfelds was understandably concerned that Mr Bullock may be armed, and that he may also be pretending to be injured or asleep.^{53,54}
24. A short time later other officers arrived on the scene and approached Mr Bullock. Officer Grinfelds moved bags that were next to Mr Bullock's body out of the way in case one of them contained a weapon, and when later examined the bags were found to contain 180 g of methylamphetamine and \$150,000 in cash.^{55,56,57,58}
25. Officer Grinfelds heard a police officer requesting an ambulance, and he and the other officers at the scene determined that Mr Bullock was not breathing and started CPR.^{59,60}
26. Ambulance officers arrived and assisted with resuscitation efforts, and gave Mr Bullock several doses of adrenaline. Although a defibrillator was attached to his chest at 10.11 pm, Mr Bullock's heart remained in a non-shockable rhythm and no shocks were administered.^{61,62,63,64,65}
27. Although CPR was continued for about 20 minutes, Mr Bullock could not be revived and he was declared deceased by an ambulance officer at 10.31 pm on 1 July 2022.^{66,67,68,69}

⁵³ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 11, Statement - Det. Sen. Const. H Grinfelds (30.09.22), paras 15-21

⁵⁴ ts 19.04.24 (Grinfelds), pp24-26

⁵⁵ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 10, Report - Det. Sen. Const. J Stewart (04.07.22), p4

⁵⁶ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 11, Statement - Det. Sen. Const. H Grinfelds (30.09.22), paras 22-25, 31, 34, & 38-48

⁵⁷ ts 19.04.24 (Grinfelds), pp26 & 28

⁵⁸ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 18, Certificate of Approved Analyst (02.08.22)

⁵⁹ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 11, Statement - Det. Sen. Const. H Grinfelds (30.09.22), paras 26-30

⁶⁰ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 10, Report - Det. Sen. Const. J Stewart (04.07.22), p4

⁶¹ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 11, Statement - Det. Sen. Const. H Grinfelds (30.09.22), paras 32-33 & 35-36

⁶² ts 19.04.24 (Grinfelds), pp26-27

⁶³ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 10, Report - Det. Sen. Const. J Stewart (04.07.22), p4

⁶⁴ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 19.2, SJA Patient Care Record MEL21N2 (01.07.22)

⁶⁵ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 19.3, SJA Patient Care Record MAN22N2 (01.07.22)

⁶⁶ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 10, Report - Det. Sen. Const. J Stewart (04.07.22), p4

⁶⁷ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 19.2, SJA Patient Care Record MEL21N2 (01.07.22)

⁶⁸ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 19.3, SJA Patient Care Record MAN22N2 (01.07.22)

⁶⁹ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 2, Life Extinct Certification (10.31 pm, 01.07.22)

CAUSE OF DEATH^{70,71}

28. On 13 July 2022, a forensic pathologist (Dr Dan Moss) conducted a post mortem examination of Mr Bullock's body. Dr Moss noted that Mr Bullock's heart was enlarged (cardiomegaly), and there was a focal area of scarring (myocardial fibrosis). Mild hardening and narrowing of the blood vessels on the surface of Mr Bullock's heart (coronary artery atherosclerosis) was also noted.
29. Microscopic examination of tissues showed patchy scarring within the heart muscle and confirmed "*up to moderate coronary artery atherosclerosis*". Changes in Mr Bullock's kidneys were suggestive of hypertension, but other than CPR-related rib fractures there was no other evidence of significant recent injury.
30. Toxicological analysis detected methylamphetamine, and its metabolite amphetamine in Mr Bullock's system along with low levels of tetrahydrocannabinol, indicating cannabis use. Alcohol and other common drugs were not detected.⁷²
31. Dr Moss said that although Mr Bullock's medical history had not been provided, the most likely explanation for Mr Bullock's enlarged heart was hypertension, possibly related to long-standing stimulant drug use.
32. At the conclusion of the post mortem examination, Dr Moss expressed the opinion that the cause of Mr Bullock's death was cardiac arrhythmia in a man with methylamphetamine effect and cardiomegaly.
33. I accept and adopt the opinion of Dr Moss as to the cause of Mr Bullock's death.
34. Further, on the basis of the available information, and given Mr Bullock's levels of methylamphetamine, I find that death occurred by way of accident.

⁷⁰ Exhibit 1, Vol.1, Tab 5.1, Supplementary Post Mortem Report (20.03.23)

⁷¹ Exhibit 1, Vol.1, Tab 5.2, Post Mortem Report (13.07.22)

⁷² Exhibit 1, Vol.1, Tab 6, Final Toxicology Report (22.10.22)

SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATIONS

*Police intercept driving policy*⁷³

35. At the relevant time, intercept driving by police officers in Western Australia was regulated by a policy referred to as: TR-07.04 Emergency Driving (the Policy).
36. At the start of the inquest I made a non-publication order relating to the Policy on the basis that it would be contrary to the public interest. For that reason, I do not intend to outline key provisions of the Policy in this finding, but I have assessed the Policy and concluded that the Officers complied with it.
37. I note that police officers engaged in intercepts are required to undertake a risk assessment before and during the intercept, and consider relevant factors when deciding whether to initiate and/or continue the intercept.
38. Officers engaged in an intercept must also provide regular updates to the POC, and an intercept may be terminated by the POC, the intercept vehicle driver, an intercept vehicle passenger, or by one of a range of authorised officers carrying out roles connected with the intercept.⁷⁴
39. When an intercept has been terminated, the driver of the intercept vehicle must switch off emergency warning equipment, reduce speed, and comply with applicable speed limits.
40. An intercept which results in a serious injury or death must be investigated by WA Police's Internal Affairs Unit (IAU). The investigation must include an assessment of whether the Policy (and any relevant legislation) was complied with, and the appropriateness of the actions of the intercept driver.⁷⁵

⁷³ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 23.1, TR 07.04 Emergency Driving Policy

⁷⁴ ts 19.04.24 (Burns), pp21-22

⁷⁵ ts 19.04.24 (Dorosz), p29

Drug and alcohol testing

41. Following Mr Bullock's death, the Officers underwent a preliminary breath test at the scene, and later a urine drug screening test at Mandurah police station. The results of all of these tests established that neither of the Officers had consumed alcohol or common drugs.^{76,77,78}

Homicide Squad investigation

42. Following Mr Bullock's death, officers from the Homicide Squad attended and assessed the scene with officers from the Forensic Field Operations team. Footage from the Officers' body worn cameras (which had been activated at the start of the intercept) was also reviewed.⁷⁹
43. The Homicide Squad investigation concluded that "*there was no indication of criminality on the part of the police, or any third party in relation to the death of (Mr Bullock)*".^{80,81,82}

Major Crash Investigation Section investigation

44. Officers from the Major Crash Investigation Section (MCIS) attended the scene and conducted an investigation. Scene assessments suggested that Mr Bullock was in control of the Vehicle when he drove it down a steep embankment near the north freeway on-ramp at Lakes Road in an apparent attempt to evade police.
45. Heavy vegetation on the embankment meant Mr Bullock was not able to continue driving the Vehicle, which he then abandoned. MCIS officers inspected the Vehicle and found no evidence of vehicle to vehicle contact. The Vehicle had sustained only minor damage to the "*front skirt and lower bumper*", and its airbags had not deployed.^{83,84,85}

⁷⁶ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 7.2, Report - Det. Sen. Sgt. A Dorosz (09.04.24), paras 34 & 36

⁷⁷ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 21, Statement - Mr R Morehead (09.04.24), paras 47-48

⁷⁸ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 22, Statement - Sgt. S Burns (09.04.24), paras 40-42

⁷⁹ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 7.2, Report - Det. Sen. Sgt. A Dorosz (09.04.24), para 26

⁸⁰ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 7.2, Report - Det. Sen. Sgt. A Dorosz (09.04.24), para 26 and ts 19.04.24 (Doroz), pp30-31

⁸¹ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 7.2A, Homicide Squad Response Assessment Form (04.04.24)

⁸² Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 7.2B, Briefing Note - Metropolitan Region (02.07.22), p2

⁸³ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 7.2, Report - Det. Sen. Sgt. A Dorosz (09.04.24), paras 27-31 & 60-61 and ts 19.04.24 (Doroz), pp30-31

⁸⁴ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 7.2B, Briefing Note - Metropolitan Region (02.07.22), p2

⁸⁵ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 7.2C, Major Crash Investigation Section: Forensic Crash Reconstruction Scene Notes (02.07.22)

Internal Affairs Unit review

46. As the on-call officer for the IAU on 1 July 2022, Officer Dorosz attended the scene and conducted an assessment. Officer Dorosz also conducted the urine drug screening test mentioned earlier, and subsequently conducted a desktop review of police interactions with Mr Bullock.^{86,87}
47. Officer Dorosz reviewed documents from the Homicide Squad, the MCIS, body worn camera footage from the Officers and Officer Grinfelds, Computer Aided Dispatch Task documents, and the accounts of the night's events by each of the Officers. Officer Dorosz said that his assessment of the scene suggested that after abandoning the Vehicle, Mr Bullock had climbed a steep embankment and made his way to a cycleway underpass where he appeared "*to have had a medical episode and collapsed on the path*".^{88,89}
48. Officer Dorosz noted that the Vehicle was found about 11 minutes after the Officers terminated the intercept and about 11 minutes after that, Mr Bullock was located in the cycleway underpass. Police had called emergency services and started CPR as soon as it was safe to do so, and the first of two ambulances arrived on the scene a few minutes later.⁹⁰
49. At the inquest Officer Dorosz confirmed that the following conclusions in his report were correct and that he had nothing to add:⁹¹

It is clear from the circumstances that (Mr Bullock) was attempting to evade police however a review of police action leading up to and surrounding the death of (Mr Bullock) indicates that at the time of (Mr Bullock's) death he was not directly engaging with police. No issues were identified regarding Police compliance with Western Australia Police Force policy or Code of Conduct. It is recommended that no further investigation into this issue is required.⁹²

⁸⁶ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 7.2, Report - Det. Sen. Sgt. A Dorosz (09.04.24), paras 33-38 and ts 19.04.24 (Dorosz), pp34-35
⁸⁷ ts 19.04.24 (Dorosz), pp29-31

⁸⁸ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 7.2, Report - Det. Sen. Sgt. A Dorosz (09.04.24), paras 28-33, 35, 39-48 & 60-61

⁸⁹ ts 19.04.24 (Dorosz), pp31-32

⁹⁰ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 7.2, Report - Det. Sen. Sgt. A Dorosz (09.04.24), para 62 and ts 19.04.24 (Dorosz), p31

⁹¹ ts 19.04.24 (Dorosz), pp31-32

⁹² Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 7.2, Report - Det. Sen. Sgt. A Dorosz (09.04.24), paras 65-67 and ts 19.04.24 (Dorosz), p31

COMMENTS ON THE ACTIONS OF POLICE

50. The evidence before me establishes that at the relevant time, Mr Bullock was a suspect in relation to several very serious criminal offences and that he was actively attempting to evade police.
51. Given the seriousness of the offences allegedly committed by Mr Bullock and the fact that it was strongly suspected that he was armed, the decision by the Officers to attempt to intercept the Vehicle was clearly appropriate.
52. In my view the risk assessments conducted by the Officers prior to and during the intercept took account of relevant factors, and their decision to terminate the intercept after losing sight of the Vehicle was clearly correct.
53. By the time Mr Bullock had abandoned the Vehicle and fled the scene, the intercept had been terminated for about 11 minutes. Mr Bullock's decision to flee the scene and climb a steep embankment appears to have initiated the cardiac event that caused his death.
54. After Mr Bullock was found, police started CPR as soon as it was deemed safe to do so. Officer Grinfelds' request for backup after he located Mr Bullock was sensible given that it was strongly suspected that Mr Bullock may be armed and given the lighting in the underpass, it was initially unclear whether Mr Bullock was feigning injury or sleep.
55. Ambulance officers arrived promptly and assisted with resuscitation efforts, and stated that "*CPR undertaken by (police) to good standard with coaching*".⁹³ I note the suggestion made by Mr Morehead in his statement that police vehicles should carry defibrillators, especially given the fact that officers are trained in their use.⁹⁴ At the inquest, this suggestion was supported by both Officer Burns and Officer Grinfelds.⁹⁵

⁹³ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 19.2, SJA Patient Care Record MEL21N2 (01.07.22), p2

⁹⁴ Exhibit 1, Vol. 1, Tab 21, Statement - Mr R Morehead (09.04.24), para 49(a) and ts 19.04.24 (Morehead), pp12-13

⁹⁵ ts 19.04.24 (Burns), p19 and ts 19.04.24 (Grinfelds), p27

56. There is no evidence before me that any delay in applying a defibrillator to Mr Bullock's chest had any significant impact on his death. Nevertheless, in my view Mr Morehead's suggestion has considerable merit, and I invite WA Police to consider the appropriateness of equipping at least some police vehicles (e.g.: police trauma cars) with defibrillators.⁹⁶
57. After careful consideration of the available evidence, I am satisfied that neither the actions of the Officers during the intercept, nor the efforts of police officers involved in providing CPR to Mr Bullock caused or contributed to his death.
58. I am further satisfied that the actions of the Officers in initiating, and then terminating the intercept were reasonable and that the Officers complied with the Policy.

CONCLUSION

59. This case again demonstrates that police are often required to deal with potentially dangerous situations, and are sometimes required to place their lives at risk for the benefit of the wider community. They are to be warmly commended for their willingness to do so.
60. Finally, as I did at the conclusion of the inquest, I wish to again convey to Mr Bullock's partner, family and friends, on behalf of the Court, my sincere condolences for your loss.

MAG Jenkin
Coroner
26 April 2024

⁹⁶ For example, see: ts 19.04.24 (Burns), p21