



Minister for Police & Road Safety

PERTH CORONERS COURT

16 MAR 2018

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Our Ref: 63-05308

Ms Dawn Wright
Manager Listings
Office of the State Coroner
Level 10, Central Law Courts
501 Hay Street
PERTH WA 600

Dear Ms Wright

Thank you for your letter regarding the State Coroner's inquest into the deaths of Sean Duncan Barrett, Kuldeep Singh, Gavin Wayne Fryer, Jordan Damon Rundell, Kyra Marjorie Narrier and Hassan El Bakdadi and the Recommendation relating to police pursuits.

I forwarded a copy of your correspondence and the State Coroner's report to the Western Australia Police Force and drew to their attention the following recommendation:

I recommend that the Police Airwing be allocated greater resources for the acquisition and operation of an additional helicopter and to this end, that consideration be given to allocating appropriate funding to the Western Australia Police Service.

I am advised the WA Police Force consider that their current two-helicopter model sufficiently meets frontline demand and emergency response requirements. There is however a need to commence a process to modernise the helicopter fleet.

A comprehensive business case has been developed regarding the WA Police Force's helicopter capability, and is being considered by the Government to achieve a fit-for-purpose helicopter capability and appropriately meet frontline demand and emergency response requirements.

The WA Police Force advise the benefits of new technology in modern helicopters, amongst other things, greatly assist to reduce the pre-flight procedures required in older helicopters, such as those currently operated by the WA Police Force. The new technology greatly reduces take-off time and therefore allows for rapid deployment of helicopters to support evade-police and other emergency incidents.

The WA Police Force and Government are working together to achieve a fit-for-purpose helicopter fleet to sufficiently meet frontline demand and emergency response requirements.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

**HON. MICHELLE ROBERTS MLA
MINISTER FOR POLICE; ROAD SAFETY**

14 MAR 2018