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# Your say

## Radio inaction a disgrace

Shadow Police Minister Margaret Quirk should hang her head in shame.

Ms Quirk was a minister when police officers patrolling between Geraldton and Dongara had to ask a passing truck driver to radio for help for an accident victim.

Where was Ms Quirk's concern between February and June 2008 when I lobbied her government four times for a commitment to upgrade country police radio systems?

On March 11, 2008, I asked the then Labor police minister if he was going to upgrade the regional network. He sidestepped the question with: "This is being considered as part of the current budget process."

On May 13, 2008, I asked if he would confirm that there had been 70 major breakdowns in the 25-year-old system in the past 12 months. He admitted this was true.

On June 24, 2008, under more questioning, the then Labor minister said: "Improvement to the regional radio systems, including the rollout of TADIS, is one of the remaining

challenges to be addressed."

On June 30, 2008, in a comment to a regional newspaper, then Labor treasurer and acting police minister Eric Ripper refused to commit to an implementation date and would only say: "Police will continue to work on a cost-effective solution."

It is a disgrace that the Labor Government, in which Margaret Quirk was a minister, did nothing to improve the regional police radio network during nearly eight years in government, despite the fact that they were reaping an unprecedented economic boom from country regions.

The current government is operating in constrained economic times, but after Ms Quirk's comments I spoke to Police Minister Rob Johnson and he has assured me that he remains committed to improving the country police radio network.

**Brian Ellis**  
**Liberal Member for Agricultural Region**