



## Our police miss out on car data

REGIONAL police will not be included in the roll-out of a national database being installed in 400 metropolitan patrol cars.

The new technology, known as TADIS, allows police to run registration numbers and addresses through an in-car computer system to know within seconds if a person has a criminal history.

Police Minister John Kobelke said regional police officers would miss out because required mobile radio and data infrastructure was not in place.

Shadow Mid West and Wheatbelt Minister Brian Ellis said despite the Carpenter Government's hype about providing increased police protection, police in remote areas had been left at risk.

"In his press release announcing the metropolitan roll-out the

Minister said the national database will provide police patrols with "critical information", "will keep them safer" and "has also improved response times".

"Given the isolation in which many regional police officers work, and given their limited access to emergency back-up, I think the Government should allocate some of the windfall earned from regional mining royalties to give country coppers the same protection as metropolitan police," he said.

Mr Ellis said the need for an Australia-wide database came to public attention after a WA police officer in a remote area was seriously injured while apprehending a person he did not know was wanted for a murder investigation in another state.