

BROOME REGIONAL PRISON — CRITICAL INCIDENT

32. Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE to the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to the incident at Broome Regional Prison that occurred on 12 January, when a prisoner escaped and then set fire to Broome Primary School, reportedly causing up to \$5 million damage. What caused the breakdown in security that led to this prison escape?

Mr F.M. LOGAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. There was no breakdown in security whatsoever; it was simply on the basis of the way —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Sorry, if you know the answer, you answer it! Otherwise, I will. There was no breakdown in security as such.

Mr D.T. Redman: So you just let them out.

The SPEAKER: I will be letting you out early, member for Warren–Blackwood.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: For obvious reasons, I will not go into the details of how that person escaped.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: No government would put on the public record the security systems of our prisons. Neither Liberal–National governments nor Labor governments do that, so the member should not be ridiculous in making those statements. I put this to the shadow minister —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! I want to hear this.

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for North West Central, no-one likes to hear your voice.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: The way in which that person got out of jail would make her a very good candidate for Cirque du Soleil or a gymnast. I could guarantee that not one person in this chamber could do what she did in getting out. That is all I will say. It was a remarkable escape and one that should not have happened. Unfortunately, she went on to destroy a piece of heritage public infrastructure for no good reason. She is back in jail, where she should be, and has gone from facing a relatively minor charge to now facing very, very serious charges, on which I hope she is found guilty and I hope that she faces a long term of imprisonment.