

PRISONERS REVIEW BOARD — EARLY PAROLE — LUKE NOORMETS

**625. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:**

I refer to the decision of the Prisoners Review Board of Western Australia to release Luke Noormets early and the PRB's reason for it—that he has no previous history and it was deemed he posed an acceptable risk to the safety of the community.

- (1) Does the Premier believe that the PRB erred in its decision to grant Luke Noormets parole given the new details that have come to light about his history of violent offending and convictions in 2012?
- (2) Given the Premier said yesterday that the PRB does not always get it right, what is being done to ensure that decisions like this do not happen again?

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Vasse, I think the first question may be asking for an opinion. I will allow the Premier to respond to your questions as he sees fit.

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

- (1)–(2) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the member for Vasse for the question. As I said yesterday, the Prisoners Review Board makes its own decisions; it is an independent authority, as it should be. Occasionally, we will see a circumstance in which a government or a Parliament may create frameworks under which they operate, such as the laws that we brought in around serial sex offenders, but the decisions around the circumstances of a prisoner's release are appropriately up to the independent Prisoners Review Board.

At the time of Mr Noormets' supervised release into the community in June 2022, I am advised that the Prisoners Review Board took into account a wide range of factors, as it was required to do under its guiding legislation, and determined that his release did not present an unacceptable risk to the community at the time. The supervision of prisoners on parole in the community assists with their reintegration and rehabilitation, and generally offers more protection to the community in the longer term than releasing prisoners into the community without any supervision at the end of their sentence. In this particular instance, the perpetrator had been on parole in the community for a period of over 13 months under the supervision of Adult Community Corrections without any incidents being brought to the attention of the Prisoners Review Board.

The tragic death of Ms Lyall continues to be investigated by the Western Australia Police Force in the context of an intimate partner homicide. The police investigation will hopefully provide answers as to why Ms Lyall's life was taken in these tragic circumstances. These circumstances, as I said yesterday, are always complex. That is why it is important that we not only appropriately consider all the issues that feed into that complexity, but also that we support the people who are subject to these release orders. As I just said, the perpetrator of this particular act against Ms Lyall had been in the community for over 13 months, with no incidents to that point in time. It is a horrible set of circumstances, and all our hearts go out to Ms Lyall and her family.