

BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE — INSPECTOR OF CUSTODIAL SERVICES REPORT

353. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I refer to the latest report by the Inspector of Custodial Services into Banksia Hill Detention Centre that found that every element of Banksia Hill was failing and that the centre is in acute crisis, with all factors ignored by the former Premier who described the actions of detainees as a form of terrorism and used foetal alcohol spectrum disorder as an excuse. Does the Premier stand by his comments that the former Premier's approach was absolutely spot-on?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

Of course, the Inspector of Custodial Services never made any observation about the former Premier's comments on Banksia Hill, so it is disingenuous to try to conflate the two. I observe that the newly minted minister is sitting just there.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr R.H. COOK: If the member for Vasse were truly interested in finding out what this government was doing, she would probably go to the source, but I am very happy to answer the question on behalf of the Minister for Corrective Services. Obviously, there are some issues at Banksia Hill that need to be resolved, and that is why we have made it a priority. The first thing that we have to do is ensure the safety of everyone in that facility—the kids in detention, the staff who are there to look after them, and those responsible. That will be the priority of the Minister for Corrective Services in the first instance. There are reports of damage to infrastructure, and we will need to look at what to do about that. We will continue to take briefings and we very much look forward to making further comments and announcements on Banksia Hill in the coming weeks.