

DANGEROUS SEX OFFENDERS — TRACKING DEVICES

37. Mr P. PAPALIA to the Premier:

I refer to the amendments to the dangerous sex offender legislation made by the Premier's government that has, according to the Director of Public Prosecutions, "resulted in a greater number of offenders being released".

- (1) Why has the report into all aspects of the Dangerous Sexual Offenders Act received by the Attorney General in June last year not been released?
- (2) Did that report recommend changes to legislation to make the community safer?
- (3) If yes to (2), why did the minister not introduce that legislation last year as promised?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

I think that question should be either addressed to the Attorney General or to the Minister for Corrective Services.

Ms M.M. Quirk: You're the Premier.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Yes, but I am going to canvass it.

- (1)–(3) That report has not yet been released. I must admit that I have not read it. Discussion is taking place and amendments will be introduced into Parliament by the Attorney General. There has been a debate in the community over the last few days. That is fine. The use of tracking devices is important. The Minister for Corrective Services has made it very clear that in his view prisoners should not be released earlier than would otherwise be the case on the grounds that they might be fitted with a GPS tracking device.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The member may want to ask a question of the Minister for Corrective Services as he is certainly closer to the issue in terms of detail, or the Attorney General. Most sex offenders will be released at some stage. The government's view is that the availability of a GPS tracking system should not be the grounds for early release. But when someone is released, it is far better that they have a GPS tracker on them than not.