

ANIMAL ACTIVISM — FINE PAYMENT

141. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the Leader of the House representing the Attorney General:

I refer to the recent case whereby an animal activist raised more than \$4 000 in a matter of hours through a crowdfunding campaign to cover his fines.

- (1) Is the use of crowdfunded campaigns to support criminal activities an offence, and under what act does it constitute an offence?
- (2) If not, will the Attorney General review the laws so that criminals who are convicted of an offence are not allowed to use crowdfunding to pay for any fines they may have?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The funding of criminal activity is an offence and may be captured under section 7 of the Criminal Code in regard to enabling or aiding another person to commit an offence. A further relevant offence is under section 563B of the Criminal Code in regard to a person who deals with any money or other property that is being, or is intended to be, used in connection with an offence. It is not an offence for a person to obtain lawful funding assistance to pay their fines.
- (2) There are no plans to introduce legislation prohibiting the making of donations towards the payment of another person's fines. Crowdfunding using an online platform to elicit donations for this purpose is materially indistinguishable from simply asking others for help to pay fines, a ban on which would be virtually impossible to enforce. It is noted that the Charitable Collections Act 1946 applies only to the regulation and control of the collection of money or goods for charitable purposes.