

SENTENCE ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL 2017

177. Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE to the Attorney General:

I refer to the passing of the McGowan Labor government's landmark no body, no parole legislation, which this side of the house has long campaigned for.

- (1) Can the Attorney General advise the house when these laws will come into full force and effect.
- (2) Can the Attorney General outline the impact these laws will have on people convicted of murders when no body has been recovered?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY replied:

I thank the member for Thornlie for his question.

- (1)–(2) I am able to confirm that yesterday the legislation passed through this chamber with a couple of amendments from the Council, and the matter is now ready to go to Her Excellency the Governor for royal assent. Her Excellency is not available this week, but I expect that next week royal assent will be given. It is the government's intention thereafter to immediately proceed to proclamation, so I expect that within two weeks the legislation will be both assented to and proclaimed. It is all ready to go.

As to the effect it might have on the prison population, it is already having an effect. As I said yesterday in this chamber, I have already received one letter from a prisoner imploring me to contact the police to have them come and collect him and take him out to try to locate a body of a person he was convicted of murdering. We hope that is successful and we hope that he is not just having a lull of us. The police will assess this matter. As to the effect it will have on prisoners, I think it is already having an effect, and not only by reason of that. I have also had correspondence from Mr Mansell, who was convicted of the murder of Mr Puddy. His letter was more abusive in tone. He did not participate in a record of interview with police. He did not give evidence at his trial and offer any explanation or offer himself up for cross-examination. Since these laws have come into effect or been before the Parliament, he has written to me saying that he is in fact innocent. Why did he not say that to the court or the police? He was also mildly abusive of my proposition, which I have previously stated in this Parliament, that Mr Mansell should spend the rest of his life, until the day he dies, in custody. So, this legislation is having an effect. Now that this law has passed and is the law of the land, if Mr Mansell were by happenstance to see this on TV tonight or read it in *Hansard* or see a report, he ought to remember that one of the elements of this legislation is timeliness of disclosure. Those prisoners who are in custody, especially Mr Mansell and Mr Wark, who was convicted of the murder of Hayley Dodd, and others—I am not going to go through them all—ought to reconsider their positions immediately, because they are looking down the barrel of dying in prison. I, for one, and this side of the house, will have no sorrow about that outcome—that they spend the rest of their lives behind the walls.