

DANGEROUS SEX OFFENDERS — GPS TRACKING DEVICES

**152. Mr P. PAPALIA to the Minister for Corrective Services:**

I refer —

Several members interjected.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** This is a serious matter. I refer to the release of the violent serial rapist TJD.

- (1) Has not this individual been released because of the minister's policy of allowing GPS tracking of sex offenders who would otherwise be in prison?
- (2) Will the minister guarantee that this individual will not be able to reoffend now that he has been released under the minister's GPS tracking policy?

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:**

- (1)–(2) This is actually a very serious question, member for Warnbro, and I will repeat what I said when we announced the start of the GPS tracking device rollout. It is crystal clear that the judiciary should not, and cannot, use GPS tracking devices as a trigger or consideration to release someone who otherwise would not have been released. As far as this particular offender is concerned, he has 44 conditions imposed on him at the moment, covering the following categories: reporting conditions, residential conditions, curfews, and electronic monitoring. One out of those 44 conditions involves wearing the GPS. But he has not been released, and should not have been released, just because we have GPS. GPS is an additional tool to try to ensure community safety. As I said, it is a tool. It has its limitations. I know what the limitations are, and I am happy to discuss them at any time with anyone, as I have in the past. I know what the asset is. I know what it can do and I know what it cannot do. But GPS tracking is not a miracle cure. It is a tool.

This particular offender has 43 other conditions imposed upon him, by the way. They include court-requested reporting to WA Police; programmatic and medical treatment conditions, including hormonal anti-libidinal treatment; disclosure and exchange of information; prevention of high-risk situations; prohibition of alcohol and drug use; and restrictions on contact with children. A number of conditions make up those 44. One of them is to ensure that the Department of Corrective Services does everything it can to monitor that particular person. I had a very lengthy conversation with Commissioner McMahon yesterday about this particular matter. He is under the total understanding that we expect the Department of Corrective Services to be all over this guy like a kid on a cupcake. The decision, obviously, regarding his release was not my decision. But my job as minister is to ensure that the department does everything possible to make sure he sticks to those 44 conditions.