

FINES ENFORCEMENT REGISTRY — COMPUTER UPGRADE

442. Hon SAMANTHA ROWE to the Attorney General:

I refer to the recent upgrades to the computer system used within the Fines Enforcement Registry.

- (1) Is the Attorney General aware that a number of people have been contacted by the Fines Enforcement Registry and advised that they have outstanding fines, in one case from 15 years ago, and that they need to pay the fine by a certain date or licence suspension will occur, despite the fact that they had paid the fines when they were issued?
- (2) If yes to (1), can the Attorney General advise the house —
 - (a) how many people have been subjected to this administration error;
 - (b) whether anyone has suffered licence suspension due to this error; and
 - (c) whether anyone has paid the fine for a second time after receiving this letter due to an inability to produce a receipt for the original payment?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question and answer on behalf of the Attorney General.

- (1) Yes; as the Fines Enforcement Registry is the agency responsible for the enforcement of unpaid fines and infringement notices and must utilise the information provided by the prosecuting authority at the time of registration to serve approved notices.
- (2)
 - (a) There has been no administrative error on the part of FER. FER is reliant on the prosecuting authority providing accurate information.
 - (b) Prior to a licence suspension occurring, FER issues a notice of intention to enforce. An offender is given 28 days to contact FER to make the necessary inquiries. If an inquiry relates to a registered fine or infringement that may have been previously paid in part or full prior to being registered at FER, it is referred back to the court location or prosecuting authority that registered the fine or infringement so that the matter can be resolved prior to licence suspension occurring.
 - (c) FER would not encourage payment when there is a dispute relating to a registered court fine or infringement. If an offender insisted on making payment, appropriate notes would be recorded in the FER database.