

CONFISCATION OF PROCEEDS OF CRIME — AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

342. Hon AARON STONEHOUSE to the Leader of the House representing the Attorney General:

I refer the minister to the Auditor General's recent report, "Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime", and specifically to the correspondence on page 11, where it is stated —

The DPP has long submitted that confiscation activities should be centralised in one agency, with that agency having powers to investigate, issue notices, manage property and conduct confiscation proceedings. This would likely resolve, or at least make possible the resolution of, many of the issues identified by the OAG. Creation of such an agency would require amendment of the CPCA.

- (1) Does the Attorney General acknowledge and agree with the Auditor General's findings that —
 - (a) no single agency knows what impact confiscating assets is having on crime;
 - (b) seized assets could be better managed than they are at present to minimise deterioration in condition and value between seizure and either sale or return of the asset; and
 - (c) more clarity is needed around the outcomes that the DPP and police are to achieve from the confiscation account funding they receive each year?
- (2) Does the Attorney General agree with the DPP submission recommending the creation of a single, centralised agency with the power to investigate, issue notices, manage property and conduct confiscation proceedings; and, if yes, what form might such an agency take?
- (3) Does the Attorney General have any plans to review and amend the Criminal Property Confiscation Act 2000 beyond those already before this Parliament?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I think there have been conversations behind the Chair about the answer to this question.

Hon Aaron Stonehouse: With my staff, perhaps, but I may not have received that.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Okay.

- (1)–(3) The Attorney General acknowledges the Auditor General's report and is currently considering its findings and recommendations. If the member wishes for a considered response to be provided, it is kindly requested that this question be put on notice.