

GOLD CORPORATION — PERTH MINT GOLD TOKENS

182. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to the Perth Mint Gold Token, the recent announcement from Trovio that considering recent allegations, it has decided to no longer support the product, and the fact that the minister claimed yesterday that it was a Perth Mint decision to step away from this crypto trading. Does the minister maintain that position, given Trovio's press release unequivocally states that it was its decision to step away from the Perth Mint; and, if so, can the minister explain to the house why the Perth Mint withdrew from the arrangement?

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON replied:

Yes. As I said yesterday, we made the decision some time ago to withdraw from the Perth Mint Gold Token. I remind the Leader of the Opposition that it is not a product of the Perth Mint. Even though it was branded in the Mint's name, it was the product of a commercial partner. The Mint was negotiating the arrangements for the closure of the product. I note Trovio's media statement. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to ask me about that, of course, it is not in accordance with the standing orders. I cannot be asked about its behaviour; I can be asked only about matters under the control of me, as the minister. But, yes, it was the decision of the Mint to withdraw from the product. The Leader of the Opposition asked why we decided to do that. Ever since I took on the portfolio, I have been urging the Mint to simplify its business, and that is exactly what both Sam Walsh and Jason Waters told the media conference yesterday when they were asked a very similar question.