

PERTH MINT — CEO — RETIREMENT

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

I refer to the media release issued by the Perth Mint dated 13 October 2021 announcing the retirement of the CEO, Richard Hayes, to take effect early next year.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that at a board meeting on Tuesday at the Perth Mint, Mr Hayes was escorted from the premises, relinquishing all phones, access cards and devices?
- (2) Can the minister provide an explanation for the sudden departure?

**The SPEAKER:** I give the call to the very popular minister today, the Minister for Mines and Petroleum.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON replied:**

- (1)–(2) No, what the member has described is not correct. He was not escorted off the premises on Tuesday. That is wrong. I do not know why the member suggests that. Mr Hayes has had an illness, and he is slightly older than me; these days, we all feel keenly our age. Mr Hayes tendered his resignation to the chairman two weeks ago—it was a Friday afternoon—after a board meeting and went on annual leave. He and the chairman have been talking about his illness since then and he has decided that he will stay on sick leave until his departure. I met with the chairman today. I said to the chairman that if he thought it was better to pay out Mr Hayes, I would be relaxed about that. It is a standard arrangement for a chief executive who has a long notice period, and it might be better for Mr Hayes that he is not with Gold Corp. But that is not a decision for me; that is a decision for the board of Gold Corp. Mr Hayes resigned—as he says, retiring—because of ill health. I rang him after the chairman told me that he was retiring and we had a chat on the phone. I wished him all the best and I thanked him for the service that he has provided over these many years.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, that concludes question time.