

GOLD CORPORATION — GOVERNANCE

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

I refer to damaging revelations of gold doping and the launching of e-trading platforms of cryptocurrency at a time of noncompliance with federal legislation, including revelations of at least 5 000 instances of failure to register as a remitter in a short-circle period, all of which occurred under this government's watch. Does the minister now accept that he and his predecessor, the Premier, have completely failed in their duties of ministerial oversight of Gold Corporation?

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

I just make it clear that when we came to government we did not realise that the Perth Mint had been allowed to not comply with the law. I apologise to the community for assuming that the former government would have done something to require the Perth Mint to comply with the law. I understand why the opposition is so anxious about this issue. It is only because of the action of my predecessor, the Premier, in starting the reform program, starting to get to an improved situation at the Mint, that we are now in a position to understand a pathway forward for the future.

Let us not misunderstand how important the Perth Mint is to Western Australia. The Perth Mint allows our gold industry to be successful. Not only are there 700 Western Australians working at the Perth Mint, but there are tens of thousands of workers in the gold industry in Western Australia who rely on the Mint. In this government, they have a government that is determined to get the Perth Mint ready for the future. I understand why members opposite would be embarrassed. All these revelations expose the fact that nobody in the former government, including the member for Central Wheatbelt, who was at the cabinet table for all that time, did anything about getting Gold Corporation on the correct track. But with the Premier's leadership this government is prepared to do the work to get that done. There is \$34 million invested into the anti-money laundering and counterterrorism effort of Gold Corp and a know-your-customer approach that is second to none, remediating all the legacy issues that we inherited when we came to government, and making sure that Gold Corporation is ready for the future. The good news in this is that the community can be assured that in the Premier we have the leadership that is needed to get Gold Corp on the right track.

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