

GOLD CORPORATION — SECURITY

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

I have a supplementary question. Will the minister request Perth Mint to immediately cease and review its unsafe information-handling procedures?

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

I just make the point that the member is contradicting himself. As he just outlined, there is no adverse finding from the Auditor General on the data security.

**Mr R.S. Love** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, you were given the opportunity to ask a supplementary question. That has to be a short and sharp question. You have managed that, but you cannot continue to interject on the minister.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** As the member outlined, there is no adverse finding of the Auditor General on the data security arrangements of the Perth Mint. Now let me go to another issue. I expect the Perth Mint to fully comply with its obligations under anti-money laundering arrangements.

Let us understand the purpose of the Mint. The Perth Mint's job is to facilitate goldmining operations in Western Australia. It has not been fully understood by the community what occurs. Because of the way the Mint buys gold from the goldmines in Western Australia, they are able to be paid for the gold on delivery at the Mint, and then the Mint sells the gold to others. That benefit means that the Western Australian gold industry can maintain its cash flow. In Australia there is a second gold refiner called ABC Refinery. It operates in Sydney. It is a competitor to Gold Corporation, and it is making remarks in the community about the operations of the Perth Mint. That is because it has a commercial reason to do so.

Again, I want the member to come back to the fundamentals. As the member said himself, there was no adverse finding on data security issues in the Auditor General's report. But now the member is saying that there were adverse findings.

**Mr R.S. Love:** I didn't comment either way.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I am sorry, Leader of the Opposition. You were the one who started your question by referencing the Auditor General's report into data security systems.

**Mr R.S. Love** interjected.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** As I say, the Leader of the Opposition was the one who raised the question of the Auditor General's review of data security issues, and the point that I am agreeing with him on is that there was nothing in that report that reflected negatively on the management of data by the Perth Mint. The member then came up with a different reflection, which must be sourced from somebody, and I make the point that it was not sourced from the Auditor General.