

GOLD CORPORATION — PERTH MINT GOLD TOKENS

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

I refer to the ongoing Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre investigation into Gold Corporation, and a media release issued by Trovio, an important strategic partner of the Perth Mint, that delivered the Perth Mint Gold Token program.

- (1) Was the minister briefed on the decision by Trovio to stop supporting the PMGT platform for the Perth Mint?
- (2) What does this mean for the PMGTs in circulation, and what will it cost to rectify the situation?

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON replied:

- (1)–(2) The decision by the Perth Mint to withdraw from the Perth Mint Gold Token was taken last year. As it involved negotiations with a commercial counterparty, we were not able to explain the details of our decision to withdraw. As the Perth Mint gold tokens were never a product of the Perth Mint, but rather of the commercial partner, the question of the future of the token was the subject of the negotiation. The token was an electronic way of purchasing a specific amount of gold. If a person had attended the Mint with their token, they could swap it for an equivalent amount of gold. For that reason, the Perth Mint never had any risk because the amount of gold was covered by the value of the purchase; therefore, there is no, and was never any, financial risk for the Mint. The use of the branding of the Mint was for the commercial counterparty's benefit, and that is the reason that a licence fee was paid by the commercial counterparty to the Mint.

I do understand, and I have been briefed by Jason Waters, about the decision by Trovio to put out a media release a month ago to say that it was withdrawing from the relationship with the Mint, but I make the point that that was because the Mint had started the process of exiting our involvement in gold tokens last year.