

GOLD CORPORATION — INSURANCE COVER

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

I have a supplementary question. I think I have the answer there, that the minister is actually not across his portfolio. Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please! Leader of the Opposition, this is not an opportunity for a comment; it is an opportunity to ask a supplementary question.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** Will the minister use the upcoming five-week break to consider his position and whether he should continue as a minister?

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

I am not quite sure —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please! Minister, I would really like you to be heard. Thank you.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I was not quite sure whether I would get the call from the Speaker, because I was not sure whether it was a supplementary question.

I just want to make a couple of points here. The Leader of the Opposition pretends in the media that somehow he has led the discussion on the challenges around anti-money laundering and counterterrorism financing challenges. I remind him, it was actually nearly two years after I had raised AMLCTF challenges before the first question was asked. The problem with the way that this member has conducted himself is that he is a follower and not a leader. I also note that when we came to government, we did not realise that the former government had done nothing to get Gold Corporation into order. It was only with the Premier's actions on coming to government that we started to see improvements to Gold Corporation, which I have been happy to take further. I will just make the point that the only reason there have been improvements at Gold Corporation is because we have taken the bull by the horns and acted, unlike the former government. I always wonder—there is only one former minister over there.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** How many times was Gold Corporation discussed at cabinet? How many times were the minutes—these are all the questions they ask me—tabled when that member was at the cabinet table? It is funny how those issues are never raised. It is these ridiculous questions. Let me go to the question that is asked about the question of the insurance policies.

Guess what? I also do not know the details of the policies held by Western Power, Synergy or Horizon Power, and why would I? They are matters for management at the company. I represent the shareholders. The idea that a shareholder of Westpac knows the details of the insurance policies held by Westpac is ridiculous. It is so ridiculous that nobody would even contemplate it.

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

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** This is the problem. This member does nothing, works nothing, achieves nothing and then complains when we do work.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, particularly the opposition, when you ask a very open-ended question like that, you end up with a very open-ended answer, which probably does not assist anyone. If the question is open-ended, I will allow an open-ended answer. Normally, I would expect a more specific answer, but how can you do that if a specific question is not asked?