

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATION

SPECIAL REPORT

ON

*THE PREMATURE RELEASE OF
CONTENTS OF
REPORT*

Presented by -

THE HONOURABLE GARRY KELLY, MLC

August 1992

MEMBERS

Hon Garry Kelly MLC (Chairman)
Hon John Caldwell MLC
Hon Cheryl Davenport MLC
Hon Peter Foss MLC
Hon Derrick Tomlinson MLC

STAFF

Mrs Jennie Westaway, Advisory Research Officer
Ms Jan Paniperis, Committee Clerk

SPECIAL REPORT

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PREMATURE RELEASE OF CONTENTS OF REPORT

1. On Tuesday July 7, 1992, the night before the official release of the Committee's Second Report on the *Crime (Serious and Repeat) Offenders Sentencing Act 1992* and the *Criminal Law Amendment Act 1992*, Channel 9 in its 6pm news bulletin, quoted from and displayed extracts from a leaked earlier draft of the Report.
2. The Committee is concerned at the contempt of the House involved in the leaking of the draft report and its publication prior to the formal release pursuant to Standing Orders.
3. Inquiries have been unable to determine how the copy of the draft report come into the possession of Channel 9.
4. Shortly after viewing the Channel 9 6pm News, the Chairman of the Committee, the Hon Garry Kelly MLC, in his capacity of Deputy President, rang the Channel 9 News Room and informed the Chief of Staff that in his view the telecast of material from an unreleased Committee report constituted a contempt of the House.
5. The Deputy President advised Channel 9 not to repeat the telecast. That advice was accepted and the material was not included in later bulletins.
6. In all the circumstances, the Committee does not wish to take this particular matter any further. However, the Committee advises all media outlets that in the case of any future instances of premature publication of its reports, it will recommend to the House that the case be referred to a Committee of Privilege, with a view to imposing an appropriate sanction.