

CORRUPTION, CRIME AND MISCONDUCT AND CRIMINAL PROPERTY
CONFISCATION AMENDMENT BILL 2017

338. Dr A.D. BUTI to the Attorney General:

- (1) How will this government's anti-corruption legislation introduced today reverse the previous soft approach to organised crime?
- (2) How will this legislation reverse the previous Liberal–National government's decision to make MPs untouchable and immune from investigation?

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: The Labor Party's talking about corruption!

The SPEAKER: You're talking too much so I call you to order for the first time.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY replied:

- (1)–(2) The member for Armadale was quite right to characterise the previous government's approach as very soft on organised crime. Not only was it soft on murderers who will not give up the whereabouts of the remains of the deceased —

Point of Order

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: This appears to be more of a second reading speech on an issue that has been dealt with by this chamber than an answer to a question.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! He has only just started his answer. We will give him a go and see how he goes but he has only just started so I think it is very hard to make a decision on that already.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: As I said, having frustrated the no body, no parole bill in the other place, why can we justly say that the opposition was this soft on organised crime during its term of government? I will tell you why, Mr Speaker. In 2008, a report by Hon Justice Archer recommended that unexplained wealth provisions be transferred to the Corruption and Crime Commission so that it could use its coercive powers against organised crime in Western Australia. Fair enough. That report was written during the term of the previous government and was only handed down just before the change of government. But then during its own term of government, the committee that Hon Nick Goiran chaired—the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission—also recommended that the CCC be given unexplained wealth powers, which was completely ignored by the government. Then it introduced a bill that it went to sleep on, allowing it to lapse, so it was asleep on organised crime. It did not proceed with its bill. The joint standing committee came back in 2013 and made a recommendation to transfer the unexplained wealth powers to the CCC. The former government did nothing.

The legislation that we introduced today for the CCC to have unexplained wealth powers is part of our package against drug dealers, especially methamphetamine dealers. As I said in my second reading speech today, at the moment 60 per cent of the organised criminal activity around drugs is around methamphetamine. The amendments will give the CCC the power to financially analyse and target wealth. They will have the coercive powers to pull those people into the CCC and explain the origins of their wealth, and if they are honest, law-abiding citizens, they will have no problem producing their tax return or report from their accountant explaining that. But if they cannot explain how they accrued this wealth, the CCC will move to seize it. Once the New South Wales Crime Commission pulls these people in and lays it there in front of them, they usually give up their wealth. Not many applications are made.

I have had a number of discussions with the Corruption and Crime Commissioner, Hon John McKechnie, QC. He has assured me that, in anticipation of this legislation, the CCC is already scoping targets, so there should now be criminals out there worried that the CCC is already scoping them. We will be right on their track and right on their neck so long as those people in the other place do not do what they have done to the no body, no parole laws and try to hold this up. The CCC's most important role in our community is to use its coercive powers to attack those people at the head of the syndicates—those people who never get their hands dirty touching ice or other drugs but finance it, organise it and reap the huge wealth from it and then have ostentatious cars, houses and everything else. They will lose the lot so long as the Liberal and National Parties do not go tummy up in the other place and let them off the hook.