Extract from Hansard

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Hon Brian Walker; Hon Matthew Swinbourn

CRIMINAL PROPERTY CONFISCATION ACT — REVIEW

177. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:

I refer the Attorney General to the review of the Criminal Property Confiscation Act, undertaken by Hon Wayne Martin, which concluded two years ago almost to the day, and was tabled, without comment, in the other place in December 2019. Acknowledging the many other legislative reforms currently in the pipeline, I nonetheless ask: what timetable, if any, is the Attorney General working to in terms of a formal response to the review, either in whole or in part, and when might we reasonably expect to see something tabled here or in the other place?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer is provided on behalf of the Attorney General.

As the member rightly points out, the government has a considerable legislative agenda. Additionally, for much of last year, significant resources in the Department of Justice were redirected to the COVID-19 pandemic response. The Martin review made more than 60 recommendations canvassing both legislative and administrative matters, with the primary recommendation being that the government give consideration to repealing and replacing the act in its entirety. The recommendations in the Martin review remain under detailed consideration by the government, noting that the criminal property confiscation scheme is complex and any reform, should it be pursued, would be a large body of work.