

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, BUDGET CUTS, FRAUD, WASTE AND
MISMANAGEMENT

2107. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Premier

I refer the Premier to *The West Australian* of 12 September 2003 and the article titled 'Watchdog in budget cut plea' and ask -

- (a) has the Premier read the report;
- (b) if yes, does the Premier agree with Mr Pearson's assessment that 'fraud, waste and mismanagement in the State's public sector could go undetected because of budget cuts'; and
- (c) if the Premier does not agree with Mr Pearson's assessment, does Mr Pearson still have the confidence of the Premier to continue in the position of Auditor General?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

- (a)-(b) The Auditor General has not questioned his current capacity to carry out his responsibilities and the Government will discuss future budget issues during the 2004/05 budget process.
- (c) Not applicable.