

JASON DAVID WIMBRIDGE

546. Mr M.J. BIRNEY to the Minister for Justice:

I refer to the Court government's 1998 amendments to the Bail Act that expanded the number of schedule 2 offences, for which bail is automatically denied.

- (1) What offence under the Criminal Code was Jason Wimbridge charged with after holding up a Bendigo Bank branch in July and terrorising innocent members of the public?
- (2) Given that robbery, assault with intent to harm and grievous bodily harm are all schedule 2 offences, meaning that bail is automatically denied, why was Wimbridge granted bail?

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO replied:

- (1)-(2) I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. If he had given me some notice, I would have been able to provide the exact details. The Leader of the Opposition has also not yet worked out that bail and the courts are in the portfolio of the Attorney General. Notwithstanding that, it is important that the processes under which people are released into the community be looked at. This government, as the member will know, has given a commitment, through the Mahoney inquiry, to look at every process in the justice portfolio. Mr Mahoney will report to this Parliament, and we will then be able to make some sensible decisions to ensure that the release of prisoners into the community is done with community safety as a priority. This government is committed to that outcome.