

Question on Notice

No. 706

Asked on 25 May 2023

MR P WEIR ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, MINISTER FOR PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the increased theft of copper from agricultural, manufacturing and resource businesses—

Will the Attorney-General advise if any changes will be recommended to sections of the *Secondhand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Act 2003* and the details of those proposed changes?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Condamine for the question.

The *Second-hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Act 2003* (SHDP Act) regulates the activities of second-hand dealers and pawnbrokers, deters crime in the second-hand property market and helps protect consumers from purchasing stolen property.

Under the SHDP Act, a licensee who buys and on-sells second-hand goods is subject to a requirement to keep a transactions register and to seek certain particulars when acquiring certain second-hand goods. The Queensland Police Service (QPS) can seek a copy of a second-hand dealer's register and the dealer must provide it. In addition, suspected stolen property acquired by a second-hand dealer must be reported to the QPS as soon as practical.

The Office of Fair Trading is responsible for licensing second-hand dealers and licence spot checks, while the QPS is principally responsible for matters relating to the conduct of licensees and crime deterrence. Accordingly, while officers of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General assist where possible, the QPS is responsible for dealing with matters relating to theft.

I am advised that concerns have been raised by a number of impacted stakeholders in relation to the theft of metal, and that a number of solutions have been proposed to address the issue.

These proposals will be taken into consideration during any future review of the SHDP Act.