

MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT — WAVE ENERGY PROJECT —  
CONFLICT OF INTEREST

**518. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:**

I refer to the Minister for Regional Development's conflict of interest in the Albany wave energy project.

- (1) Was the minister involved in developing the Labor Party's wave power for Albany election commitment?
- (2) Does the Premier believe the minister has or had a conflict of interest now or at any time during the policy development and contract being awarded?

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen!

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** I continue —

- (3) What steps has the Premier taken to ensure that the contract for the project was not awarded to Carnegie as a result of the minister's relationship with the company?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

- (1)–(3) To take the member through it, the policy was launched whilst the Labor Party was in opposition. We were not the government. We launched a policy about wave energy. It was a policy that was flagged in documents put forward by the former government by the Minister for Regional Development. The former government put it forward as a concept. We picked it up and we took it forward as a policy. If the member looks at the blueprint for the great southern, she will find it is in there. We picked it up and took it forward. Carnegie was mentioned in that document, so what is the member talking about?

Our second point is this: the now minister—she was not a member of Parliament at that point in time—had a small shareholding in Carnegie by way of Carnegie acquiring another corporate company that she had a shareholding in. As soon as the election result was known, before she was sworn in as a member of Parliament, she gave the shareholding to the Leprosy Mission. She gave it away! Can members imagine any higher standards in public life? She was not a member of Parliament. She was not even in the opposition strategy policy team. I was the shadow minister responsible for the policy because I was the shadow Minister for Regional Development. Before she became a minister, she gave away the shareholding, and it was the former government's policy.