

CABINET MEETINGS, INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS

1289. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Premier

I refer the Premier to the answer to question on notice No. 1093 and ask -

- (a) where Cabinet meetings move into informal discussion, does the Cabinet Secretary stay in attendance;
- (b) if yes, does the Cabinet Secretary attend for the whole of the informal discussion;
- (c) if not, why not;
- (d) of the 109 Cabinet meetings held to 27 February 2003, how many moved into informal discussions; and on what dates; and for what period of time; and
- (e) given that the Premier has stated that matters requiring a formal decision, are not dealt with in informal discussions, what matters have been discussed in those informal discussions as outlined above?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

- (a)-(c) The Cabinet Secretary will only remain in attendance where the informal discussions may have operational implications, requiring a record for future reference and/or to facilitate any follow up action.
- (d) Generally time is set aside for informal discussions at the beginning of each Cabinet meeting or following formal Cabinet; the duration would depend on the time available and the matters to be discussed.
- (e) Topical issues and/or political matters that do not relate to executive government.