

HON SALLY TALBOT

Personal Explanation - Comments by Member for Kalgoorlie

HON SALLY TALBOT (South West) [9.33 pm] - by leave: A few months ago I received two requests. The first was to be a participant in the state resources tour with the Chamber of Minerals and Energy, which was welcoming new state Australian Labor Party members on a three-day tour of the north west and the goldfields of Western Australia. The itinerary clearly outlined plans that lasted over three days, starting on Monday 5 September and going through to Wednesday 7 September. The second piece of paper that came over my desk was a memorandum addressed to all members of the Legislative Council from one of our parliamentary officers and dated 16 August 2005. The subject was the Members of Parliament (Financial Interests) Act 1992, annual returns for 2004-05. It reads in part -

For Members whose last return was a Primary Return, the details on the form should relate to the period following from the day on which they were sworn in to June 30 2005.

I understand a suggestion was made today that the fact that I accepted this invitation from the Chamber of Minerals and Energy should have been declared under section 10 of the Members of Parliament (Financial Interests) Act 1992.

I am offended by the implication that I failed to declare these contributions under the act. Clearly, in the light of the extract I have just read from the memorandum that was circulated to all members, I was not required to disclose that contribution to travel and will not be required to declare it until the next financial year. I am particularly offended by the implication that was couched in terms of my breaking the law. I would ask the member for Kalgoorlie, who I understand made these implications, that he correct the record and also apologise.