

COLE ROYAL COMMISSION, POLICE SQUAD, RESOURCES, AND WITNESS INTIMIDATION

3093. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

I refer the Minister to *The West Australian* newspaper, dated 1 May 2004 and the report titled 'Police frame building probe charges' and ask -

- (a) did the Minister sign off on a communique in early 2004 emphasising that the rule of law applies to all parties who work in the building and construction industry;
- (b) is the Minister concerned that *The West Australian's* report states that the police squad has few resources to conduct its inquiries and that this may reflect on the Minister's commitment to the joint communique; and
- (c) what action will the Minister take on the report that 'many potential complainants, including big building companies, would not provide statements due to fear of reprisals from the CFMEU'?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS replied:

- (a) No, however the rule of law applies to all Western Australians and the Western Australia Police Service will appropriately investigate alleged breaches of criminal law.
- (b) The deployment of police resources is the responsibility of the Commissioner of Police. The Police Service has advised that the inquiry team was adequately resourced and completed its inquiries in a thorough and timely manner. The inquiry team was established within the Major Crime Division and appropriate personnel, resources, accommodation, travel and overtime were allocated to the team.
- (c) All persons are encouraged to report breaches of criminal law to the police. Police will investigate complaints and make every effort to instigate prosecutions if there is prima facie evidence of offences being committed. Where complaints are received, police will also support witnesses and instigate investigations into and prosecutions of persons who attempt to intimidate or coerce witnesses.