

ALBANY PORT AUTHORITY, ADVERTISING OF POSITIONS ON BOARD

564. Mr M.G. House to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

I refer to the practice adopted by the previous Ministers (Charlton and Criddle) of advertising pending Board positions, and ask will the Minister explain why the last two positions on the Board of the Albany Port Authority were not advertised so that interested people had the opportunity to apply?

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN replied:

Under the Port Authorities Act 1999, the Minister is responsible for appointment of Port Authority Directors and the advertisement of positions is not required under the Act.

It is clearly in the best interests of both the Authority and Port users that action be taken to identify, approach and appoint individuals with an appropriate mix of skills and experience to undertake these roles.

It is curious that the 'advertising process' was not producing the diversity of skills, networks and perspectives to deliver the best outcome. Perhaps some sections of the community were much more aware of the advertisement than others. The practice, for example, produced only 2 women out of 42 appointments. I was keen to ensure that board membership was diversified and skill basis broadened. This has and will continue to be done for so long as it is considered necessary to attract individuals with suitable and specific skills to Port Authority boards.