

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, MOBILE PHONES, USE

642. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

I refer to the Premier's Circular 24/01 concerning the use of mobile phones within Ministerial Offices and ask: -

- (a) has any staff member of the Minister's office allocated with a taxpayer-funded mobile phone conducted any private commercial activities, party political or campaigning purposes, or accessing fee-incurring information services for unofficial or unnecessary purposes;
- (b) if so, will the Minister list such activities; and
- (c) if not, why not?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS replied:

- (a) All mobile telephone usage within Ministerial Offices is subject to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's Computing and Communications Acceptable Use Policy, which provides that:

'Limited personal use of facilities by staff is permitted provided:

- (i) it is endorsed by local management;
- (ii) It does not interfere with work, or the work of anyone else; and
- (iii) It does not involve unethical behaviour.'

In addition, Premier's Circular 24/01 stipulates that mobile phones are provided for work related purposes, however there will be circumstances where private use is acceptable. However, mobile phones are not to be used for conducting private commercial activities, party political or campaigning purposes, or accessing fee incurring information services for unofficial or unnecessary purposes.

The Premier's Circular requires agencies to adopt monitoring processes to address mobile phone usage, however there is no requirement for the number of non-government related calls on mobile phone accounts to be specifically audited. Detailed information on the usage of telephone facilities is retained by the Department and can be scrutinised at the direction of the Director General if necessary.

- (b)-(c) Not applicable.