

CITY OF WANNEROO, CITY WATCH PATROL, UNDERPAYMENT OF OFFICERS

2337. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection

I refer the Minister to question on notice No. 2092, asked on 14 October 2003 of the Minister for Local Government, and ask -

- (a) is the Minister aware of the under payment of City Watch Patrol Officers at the City of Wanneroo;
- (b) is the Minister aware that the City of Wanneroo has not offered to pay back pay to the City Watch Patrol Officers;
- (c) is the Minister aware that the City of Wanneroo has suspended all the City Watch Patrol Officers until January, when their employment with the City of Wanneroo will cease;
- (d) will the Minister ensure that all suspended Patrol officers and former employees receive all back pay and other monies that are owed to them; and
- (e) will the Minister direct his Department to investigate the underpayment of employees at the City of Wanneroo?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:

- (a) Yes – I am aware of alleged underpayments of City Watch Patrol Officers at the City of Wanneroo.
- (b) The Department of Consumer and Employment Protection (DOCEP) has advised that it is investigating the alleged underpayments in accordance with its contract with the Commonwealth Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) to deliver Federal compliance services. No claim for underpayments of wages and conditions has yet been submitted by the department to the City of Wanneroo.
- (c) Yes – although I am advised that attempts are being made by the City of Wanneroo to find alternative employment for the Patrol Officers.
- (d) This matter is currently under investigation and if, at the conclusion, it is determined that Patrol Officers and former employees did not receive their award entitlements, these issues will be pursued by the department. It should be noted that DEWR's prosecution policy, as a Commonwealth government agency, is that the department can only prosecute matters over \$10,000, unless otherwise agreed.
- (e) There is no need as DOCEP is already investigating the alleged underpayments.