

PERTH CASINO ROYAL COMMISSION — HON NEVILLE OWEN

**27. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:**

I refer to the revelation that Hon Neville Owen emailed the Solicitor-General on 17 February 2021 expressing interest in being appointed to the inquiry into the operations of Crown Casino Perth.

- (1) Is the Attorney General aware that in response, the State Solicitor's Office emailed Mr Owen on 23 February requesting a meeting the following day?
- (2) Did that meeting take place?
- (3) If yes to (2), who attended?
- (4) When was the Attorney General first aware that such a meeting had taken place?
- (5) Given that *The West Australian* reported on the evening of 23 February 2021 that Mr Owen was in the running to lead this integrity inquiry, can the Attorney General give the house an assurance that neither the Attorney General nor any of his ministerial staff disclosed this information prior to the meeting on 24 February 2021?

**Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

I provide the following response on behalf of the Attorney General.

- (1)–(3) I am aware that the State Solicitor's Office contacted Mr Owen on 23 February 2021 to arrange a meeting the following day between Mr Owen, the State Solicitor and Ms Marla Dharmananda, who is an employee at the State Solicitor's Office.
- (4)–(5) I was made aware after the meeting occurred and am unaware of the basis of media reports.