

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, MANAGEMENT INITIATED REDUNDANCY
AGREEMENTS, BAR ON CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT

1097. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

I refer to the article in *The West Australian* of 17 February 2003, entitled 'Axe golden gags, say Ministers' and ask -

- (a) is the Minister aware that Management Initiated Redundancy agreements contain a clause barring criticism of the Government or the Minister;
- (b) if yes, on what date did the Minister become aware;
- (c) does the Minister support the clause in Management Initiated Redundancy agreements, which bars criticism of the Government;
- (d) if yes, why; and
- (e) if not, why not?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) This issue has been public knowledge since it was addressed by the Nevill Committee during the life of the last Government.
- (c)-(d) I support the Government's policy which is that such clauses should only apply for a limited period of time.
- (e) Not applicable.