

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY - MEETINGS OF CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
WITH PROPONENTS AND REGISTER OF GIFTS

4971. Hon Giz Watson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment

I refer to question on notice number 4720, asked on 4 April 2007 concerning the chairman and members of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), and I ask -

- (1) Can the Minister explain why as a matter of 'general principle' the chairman and members of the EPA do not meet with proponents or their representatives over lunch to discuss proposals that are in the environmental assessment process?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) Can the Minister explain the rationale and justification as to why the EPA's existing register of gifts was extended as of 16 April 2007 to cover disclosure of all alcohol, gifts, lunches, seats in corporate boxes, trips and tickets to events received from proponents and their representatives?
- (4) If no to (3), why not?
- (5) Will the register covering all of the above items mentioned in (3), be made publicly available so any member of the public can quickly see what disclosures have been made by the chairman and members of the EPA?
- (6) If no to (5), why not?
- (7) Can the Minister table a list of that have been declared on the existing register by the chairman and members of the EPA since January 2007 until June 26 2007 including all the items/disclosures, and who they were received from?
- (8) If no to (7), why not?
- (9) Can the Minister explain why the disclosure of all alcohol, gifts, lunches, seats in corporate boxes, trips and tickets received from proponents and their representatives was not seen as essential and important prior to 16 April 2007?
- (10) If no to (9), why not?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

- (1)-(2) The EPA Chairman normally meets proponents either by appointment in the Chairman's office or at fortnightly meetings of the EPA Board to discuss aspects of their proposal that are in the environmental assessment process. Members do not normally meet with proponents or their representatives other than at Board meetings or on specific site visits.
- (3)-(4) Prior to 16 April 2007 those who provided a gift to the EPA were normally advised that the EPA was unable to accept gifts or gratuities, and were told what the EPA did with any gift received. As an example, a Christmas gift provided to the EPA in 2005 was donated to the Wesley Mission, Perth and the person who provided the gift was informed of that in writing. As from 16 April 2007 a register was established to further extend the information available relating to gifts and gratuities received by the EPA.
- (5) The register of gifts and gratuities is publicly available.
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7) Yes. [See paper 2965.]
- (8) Not applicable.
- (9) See the answer to questions (3) and (4).
- (10) Not applicable.