

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN RIVER

Franchising Bill 2010 — Personal Explanation

MR P. ABETZ (Southern River) [3.56 pm]: Under the provision of standing order 148, I wish to make a short explanation relating to the Franchising Bill 2010.

The SPEAKER: Please proceed.

Mr P. ABETZ: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Some individuals and organisations have sought to imply that I have a conflict of interest or a pecuniary interest in advancing the Franchising Bill 2010. I wish to inform the house that I have never owned, operated or had a financial interest in a franchise. One of my sons, with his wife, owns and operates two drive-through coffee shops that are franchises. I was quite open about that right from the beginning.

As a keen supporter of small business in my electorate, my campaign committee, like most candidates, received donations from various small businesses for functions. Given that around 25 per cent of small businesses are franchises, it is inevitable that my campaign fund has received donations from some franchisees, mostly in goods donated for raffles and/or food and drink items for functions. I am sure that most members of this house would have received donations from some franchises or franchisees. That should not determine how they vote on this bill. I would like to assure the house that I have never received donations of any kind with a requirement or on the understanding that I do a favour in return.