

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT — DECISION-MAKING POWERS

9. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the minister's decision-making powers under the Environmental Protection Authority Act.

- (1) Has the minister put in place a rule in her ministerial office that she will not meet with project proponents or their representatives while their project is under consideration by the Environmental Protection Authority; and, if so, why?
- (2) Has the minister put in place a rule in her ministerial office that she will not meet with project proponents or their representatives while their project is being considered by the Appeals Convenor; and, if so, why?
- (3) If no to both of the above, what is the minister's policy on meeting proponents and can the minister advise which proponents or their representatives she has met since becoming the minister?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:

I thank the member for her question. I have a policy based, as I understand it, on the longstanding convention of previous Ministers for the Environment, that I do not meet with either appellants or proponents during the period that a matter is before the Appeals Convenor or during the decision-making process after the appeal determination.