

PERTH CASINO ROYAL COMMISSION — HON NEVILLE OWEN

**446. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Attorney General:**

I refer to the Attorney General's joint press conference with the Minister for Racing and Gaming on 5 March in which he announced that Justice Neville Owen would be appointed as lead commissioner for the Royal Commission to inquire into and report on the affairs of the Crown Casino Perth and related matters.

- (1) Is it true that the Attorney General told a journalist on 3 August that if he had known of the business and personal connections between Justice Owen and Mr Kerry Stokes, he would not have supported the decision to appoint Justice Owen?
- (2) When the Attorney General learnt of the connection, did he raise concerns with anyone about the independence of the royal commission, given the perceived or the potential of real conflict that exists between those investigating Crown and its current and former executives?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. In March this year, I fully supported the appointment of the Honourable Neville Owen to the Perth Casino Royal Commission as a royal commissioner. He had my full confidence in his integrity to conduct that function as an eminent jurist, and he still has my full confidence as an eminent jurist to continue with his work. He has my full support.