

MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT — WAVE ENERGY PROJECT —
CONFLICT OF INTEREST

541. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

Some notice had been provided to the Premier. I refer to the Albany wave energy project.

- (1) Was the Premier aware that one of his most senior candidates had an interest in Carnegie Clean Energy on 24 January 2017 when he identified Carnegie Clean Energy as the likely proponent of this project?
- (2) When cabinet approved the total funding amount for the Albany wave energy project —
 - (a) did the Minister for Regional Development advise the Premier of any potential conflict of interest;
 - (b) did the Premier make a determination on whether the minister had a potential conflict; and
 - (c) did the minister withdraw from the cabinet room while the relevant item was under discussion?
- (3) Given that the final decision on the allocation of funds to Carnegie Clean Energy did not go to cabinet —
 - (a) who made the final decision;
 - (b) what was the Minister for Regional Development's involvement in the process; and
 - (c) did the minister at any point raise with the Premier her potential conflict of interest?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for the notice that was given. Before answering this question, I would like to remind the house that at no point did Minister MacTiernan have a stake in or own shares in Carnegie while making any decision in relation to it. I would also like to remind the house that she donated the shares to charity prior to being sworn in both to the ministry and to Parliament to avoid even the perception of a conflict of interest.

- (1) Under the standing orders, I am under no obligation to answer matters occurring before the government was sworn in. However, it is worth noting that WA Labor's release mentioned Carnegie as "a likely" not "the likely" proponent. It is also worth noting that at no point was —

Dr M.D. Nahan: She's the only one who had the potential to do that, and you know it.

The SPEAKER: And I am the only one who has the potential to call you to order, Leader of the Opposition, so I call you to order for the second time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: It is also worth noting that at no point was the then candidate a decision-maker on opposition policy as matters were handled by me as shadow Minister for Regional Development and the member for Cannington as shadow Minister for Energy.

- (2) Not applicable. As the minister donated her shares to charity prior to being a cabinet minister or elected to Parliament, no such conflict of interest existed.
- (3)
 - (a) The final decision was made following a competitive tender process that was evaluated by an independent evaluation panel. The evaluation panel consisted of five voting members from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development—DPIRD—the Public Utilities Office and the Great Southern Development Commission, and was overseen in a review and advisory capacity by Department of Finance Government Procurement. The evaluation panel made a final recommendation for selection, which was approved by the deputy director general of DPIRD. The director general DPIRD executed a financial assistance agreement with Carnegie for the state's contribution of \$15.75 million.
 - (b) Following the recommendation of the evaluation panel and deputy director general approval, DPIRD secured the minister's approval to negotiate on the contract terms and execute the final agreement.
 - (c) As the shares were donated prior to her being either a minister or a member of Parliament, there was no potential conflict of interest to raise.