

DIALOGUE WITH THE CITY, PICKET LINE

2180. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

I refer the Minister to the Dialogue With The City event held on 13 September 2003 and to the fact that the Community and Public Sector Union threatened a picket line because public servants would not be paid extra, and I ask -

- (a) is the Minister aware of arrangements made for public servants to attend the Dialogue With The City;
- (b) if so, what were those arrangements;
- (c) if not, will the Minister ascertain and advise what the arrangements were;
- (d) what options were considered by the Government in arriving at its decision;
- (e) were there any negotiations between the CPSU and the Government regarding its threatened picket line;
- (f) if so, what was the substance of the threat; and
- (g) was any consideration given to the need to avoid a potential confrontation between the Premier and public servants at a picket line?

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN replied:

- (a) Yes
- (b) Some public servants volunteered to participate in the event in supporting roles such as facilitators, scribes and technical support. I am advised that public servants employed by the Department for Planning and Infrastructure who volunteered were subsequently granted time off in lieu.
- (c) N/A
- (d) There was no consideration of options other than volunteers for the provision of support on the day. A substantial proportion of those who volunteered to participate in supporting the event were from the private sector.
- (e)-(g) There were discussions between the CPSU and the Government at departmental level concerning the use of volunteers. I am advised that these discussions did not relate to any threatened picket line. There was correspondence between the CPSU and myself concerning the use of volunteers. I had settled my response to the CPSU's correspondence before any prospect of a picket was raised with me.