

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, CORPORATE CREDIT CARDS

855. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Energy

Will the Deputy Premier advise in respect to the allocation of corporate credit cards in the Deputy Premier's office, since the election of the Labor Government, the following -

- (a) the name and position of each person, including the Deputy Premier and Parliamentary Secretary allocated a corporate credit card;
- (b) the credit limit on the card; and
- (c) the total monthly expenditure for each person allocated a card?

Mr E.S. RIPPER replied:

Please find attached the information requested by the Member. [See paper No 1271.]

It should be noted that credit card expenditure is acquitted against my Ministerial office budget global allocation of \$1.475 million in 2001-02 and \$1.457 million in 2002-03. This is considerably less than the actual expenditure by the previous Deputy Premier of \$1.75 million in 2000-01 and \$1.8 million in 1999-2000.

I also draw the Member's attention to the fact that the level of detail provided in answer to her question is far in excess of information provided by the previous Government. Indeed, in answer to a question on notice dated 9 March 1999, the Member, then Minister for Environment and Labour Relations, declined to provide annual totals for credit cards used by her Ministerial office, stating -

I am not prepared to devote the considerable resources which would be required to provide the information sought. However if the member has a specific question I will endeavour to provide the information.

I trust the Member will acknowledge the accountability, and relative frugality, of the current Government.