

STATE SOLICITOR'S OFFICE, ACTION BY MR ANDERSON

3165. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Attorney General

I refer the Minister to the report in *The West Australian*, dated 28 June 2004, titled 'WA Inc trial will be after election' and ask -

- (a) how long has the State Solicitor's Office known that they will need to defend the action taken by Mr Anderson to recover \$50 million due to the then Labor Government's ill-fated 1988 rescue of Laurie Connell's merchant bank Rothwells;
- (b) will the Attorney General seek an explanation from the State Solicitor as to why the office was not ready to defend the action by Mr Anderson regarding the ill-fated Rothwell's deal; and
- (c) is this an indication of understaffing and under-resourcing of the State Solicitor's Office?

Mr J.A. McGINTY replied:

- (a)-(c) Consolidated Supreme Court Actions CIV 2490 of 1992, CIV 1473 of 1994 and CIV 1878 of 1994 were struck out on 18 December 2002. On 5 November 2003 an appeal against the striking out order was allowed by the Full Court and the State Solicitor's Office then became aware that the State needed to proceed with its defence. In June the actions were set down for hearing without the usual consultation with the parties. The State Solicitor's Office is adequately staffed and resourced.