

HON SHELLEY ARCHER

Personal Explanation - Comments by Member for Kalgoorlie

HON SHELLEY ARCHER (Mining and Pastoral) [9.27 pm] - by leave: Earlier today Matt Birney, the member for Kalgoorlie, implied that I improperly filed the annual return that I submitted to the office of the Clerk of the Legislative Council. He stated that I had “broken the law” in respect of travel that I undertook with the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia, which it paid for. The statement made by the member for Kalgoorlie is totally and utterly incorrect. I was required to disclose travel only for the 2004-05 financial period. This travel was undertaken on 5, 6 and 7 September 2005, which was after I had filed my return. The return was filed on 16 August 2005, and in the return I declared travel undertaken by me to the Argyle diamond mine, outside Kununurra.

This clearly shows that I am aware of my obligations. I am of the view that, prior to Matt Birney making any further imputations on my reputation, he should make himself aware of the whole document - my annual return - and the rules that apply to my annual return and the annual returns of other members. I find Matt Birney’s statement offensive, as he seemed to question the honesty of my annual return. I understand that the reputations of Hon Vincent Catania, Hon Sally Talbot and Hon Sheila Mills were also impugned in the same statement by the member for Kalgoorlie.