

CONSTRUCTION, FORESTRY, MINING AND ENERGY UNION, WORKPLACE SAFETY

1374. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection

I refer the Minister to the finding of the Cole Royal Commission that 'The paramount position that workplace safety ought to have is diminished by the misuse of 'safety' issues for the purposes of furthering industrial and other objectives of the CFMEU.' and I ask -

- (a) does the Minister agree that such behaviour undermines legitimate occupational health and safety objectives;
- (b) does the Minister agree that the inclusion of safety as an industrial issue in his Government's new Industrial Relations allows the kinds of exploitation referred to by the Cole Royal Commission; and
- (c) what does the Government intend to do to ensure that this type of behaviour does not continue?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:

- (a) Behaviour by any party that misuses safety issues in any way has the capacity to undermine legitimate occupational health and safety objectives.
- (b) No.
- (c) Commissioner Cole identified the need to change the culture within this industry. The Western Australian Occupational Safety and Health Commission reached this conclusion in 2001.

The Government is reviewing the recommendations of the Laing review of the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984 with the aim of ensuring that all parties meet their occupational, safety and health obligations.