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Supplementary Information

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah - Minister for the Environment) [2.59 pm]: I have some additional information in relation to a question regarding Esperance that I was asked in question time yesterday by the member for Capel. The question was in three parts and I responded with an answer addressing the key points raised. The member then asked a supplementary question about government spin, to which I responded no. Upon reflection, I realised that my answer was incomplete as I failed to answer part (3) of the original, substantive question. In the third part of the question, the member asked -

Did the minister or anyone from his office advise the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure before the charges were made public; and, if so, why was she advised?

My answer to that part of the question is as follows: on Tuesday, 7 August 2007 I was informed in writing by the Director General of the Department of Environment and Conservation that he had authorised six charges under the Environmental Protection Act 1986 against the Esperance Port Authority. The director general also advised that he had written to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly informing him of the action that was taken in accordance with the director general's statutory powers and responsibilities under the Environmental Protection Act 1986. I wish to clarify that, following receipt of this advice from the director general, an adviser from my office brought the matter to the attention of the office of the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure as a matter of courtesy because she is the minister leading the government's response to this issue.

Point of Order

Mr C.J. BARNETT: My point of order relates to the explanation just given by the Minister for the Environment. He was asked a direct question yesterday about whether he or any of his staff had advised the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure. That is the sort of question to which he would know the answer. I put it to you, Mr Speaker, that he misled the house yesterday.

The SPEAKER: Perhaps the member could mount a substantive motion against the minister, but it is clearly not a point of order.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr E.S. RIPPER: The member for Cottesloe has asserted that the minister deliberately misled the house. That is tantamount to accusing him of lying. That is unparliamentary and he should withdraw.

The SPEAKER: I did not hear the comment because I was trying to listen to the member for Alfred Cove. However, I am sure that if the member for Cottesloe in fact said those words, it is unparliamentary and he should withdraw them.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Yes, Mr Speaker, I did use that expression and I withdraw.