

MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Personal Explanation

MR OMODEI (Warren-Blackwood - Minister for Local Government) [7.47 pm]: I provide the House with additional information in relation to questions asked of the Premier by the member for Belmont on Thursday, 21 September and Thursday 12 October in which he implied that I had a conflict of interest in regard to the Rights in Water and Irrigation Amendment Bill 1999. I make the following points -

- (1) Ground water licences for Swan locations 341, 342, 453, 1082, 4372 and portions of Swan locations 104, 128, 340, 831 and 1373 being lots 2 and 4 Brand Highway, Gingin have been granted to Moltoni Holdings Pty Ltd. The shareholders of this company are Robert and Gemma Moltoni.
- (2) The first application for a ground water licence was made by Moltoni Holdings Pty Ltd on 16 January 1996. A subsequent application was submitted by Moltoni Corporation Pty Ltd on 9 August 1996.
- (3) A ground water exploratory licence was issued to Moltoni Corporation Pty Ltd on 30 August 1996.
- (4) An application was submitted by Moltoni Holdings Pty Ltd on 11 August 1997 for a change in proposed land use to irrigate a proposed 180-hectare vineyard and a 200-hectare olive plantation and processing plant.
- (5) A production licence was issued to Moltoni Holdings Pty Ltd with restricted licence tenure for the first stage of the development on 20 April 1999. At that time it was indicated that should all development milestones and monitoring conditions be met, a renewal would be granted.
- (6) A ground water licence was awarded to Moltoni Holdings Pty Ltd to draw water from the Yarragadee aquifer on 23 July 1999.
- (7) An application was submitted by Moltoni Holdings Pty Ltd on 7 March 2000 to draw water from the Leederville aquifer.
- (8) A ground water licence to draw water from the Leederville aquifer was issued to Moltoni Holdings Pty Ltd on 30 May 2000.
- (9) I do not have any interest in Moltoni Holdings Pty Ltd.
- (10) At no time have I ever had any involvement in the applications by Moltoni Holdings Pty Ltd for ground water licences made under the legislation.
- (11) Koorian Land Co Ltd purchased lands on which olives are grown from Moltoni Holdings Pty Ltd on 26 August 1999. Moltoni Agricultural Limited manages the grove known as Koorian Olives.
- (12) Water sourced from the Yarragadee aquifer is sold by Moltoni Holdings Pty Ltd to Koorian Land Co Ltd.
- (13) I have been a director of Koorian Land Co Ltd and Moltoni Agricultural Limited since March 1999.
- (14) I lease 0.3 hectares of olives from Koorian Land Co Ltd.

The Rights in Water and Irrigation Amendment Bill 1999 seeks to amend the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914, the Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947, the Environmental Protection Act 1986, the Metropolitan Water Supply Sewerage and Drainage Act 1909 and the Mining Act 1978. It is my contention, and my advice confirms this, that I have an interest in common with all Western Australians in discussing this legislation.