

LANDGATE OFFICES — SALE

**182. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the Minister for Finance:**

I refer to the Auditor General's opinion of 8 March that said that the failure to provide information to me regarding the matter of stamp duty payable on the sale of the Landgate building in Midland was "not reasonable and therefore not appropriate".

- (1) Did the minister contravene the Duties Act 2008 in applying the lower sale price of \$17.3 million to calculate stamp duty instead of valuation reflected of that established on 1 December 2020 of about \$40 million?
- (2) Will the minister seek advice from the Commissioner of Taxation to determine whether the law has been broken regarding the estimate of stamp duty on the sale?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) I note the honourable member has asked me a question about the actions of another minister. The previous Minister for Finance did not contravene the WA Duties Act 2008. The administration of stamp duty is a matter for the Commissioner of State Revenue. The Commissioner of State Revenue is the statutory role appointed under the Public Sector Management Act 1994. The commissioner exercises his statutory functions and powers in an independent manner and is not subject to direction by the Minister for Finance in respect of those functions or powers.