

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS — NEIL WINZER

2946. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Public Sector Management

With regard to the September 2007 recommendation tabled in the Legislative Council by the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs and to advice of 6 November 2007 from the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure in relation to Neil Winzer's eligibility for a voluntary severance payment, I ask:

- (a) is the Premier aware of information received by former Premier, the Hon. Dr Geoff Gallop, in May 2002 that Mr Winzer had been advised that he was eligible for a voluntary severance payment by a senior Department for Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) officer against whom Mr Winzer had made claims of criminal activity to the Western Australian Police Service;
- (b) is the Premier aware that the Western Australian Police Service in July 2002 recommended an investigation of official corruption within the DPI;
- (c) is the Premier aware of a request made on 8 January 2003 for the former Premier, the Hon. Dr Geoff Gallop, to urge the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure to agree to meet Mr Winzer to discuss developments with the public interest claim and the termination of his employment;
- (d) is the Premier aware of information received by former Premier, the Hon. Dr Geoff Gallop, in March 2003 as to Mr Winzer's request of the then Director General of DPI for a meeting to discuss his severance from the public service;
- (e) is the Premier aware of information received by former Premier, the Hon. Dr. Geoff Gallop, in April 2003 as to the postponement of the meeting between Mr Winzer and the then Director General of DPI at which Mr Winzer's redundancy was to be discussed; and
- (f) is the Premier aware that the specific documents Mr Winzer requested be tabled at the meeting scheduled between him and the then Director General of DPI are the same documents that are the subject of the investigation recommended in the Parliamentary Inspector's report of 29 December 2006 to the Corruption and Crime Commission?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

- (a) I am advised by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet that the former Premier, the Hon. Dr Geoff Gallop received correspondence from Mr Winzer on 22 May 2002, stating that Mr Winzer's former supervisor at the Department of Transport, Ms Helen Langley, had identified him as a suitable candidate for voluntary severance.
- (b) No, however, I am advised by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet that correspondence was received from Mr Winzer, dated 16 July 2002, stating that a Western Australian Police Service report recommended an investigation of Mr Winzer's claims.
- (c) I am advised by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet that on 8 January 2003, the Hon. Cheryl Edwards MLA wrote to the former Premier, the Hon. Dr Geoff Gallop requesting that he urge the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure to meet with Mr Winzer.
- (d) I am advised by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet that on 17 March 2003, Mr Winzer provided the Department with a copy of correspondence to Mr Greg Martin, then Director General of the Department for Planning and Infrastructure, in which Mr Winzer requested a meeting to discuss his severance from the public service.
- (e) I am advised by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet that correspondence was received from Mr Winzer on 11 April 2003 in which he requested the above meeting be postponed if Mr Martin would not provide certain documentation at the meeting.
- (f) Following Mr Winzer forwarding correspondence to the Department I am aware that the Parliamentary Inspector has recommended that the question to be addressed is whether "Mr Winzer is correct in alleging that no officer of the Department for Planning and Infrastructure ever addressed any aspect of his public interest claim".