

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, WESFARMERS LTD SHARES

526. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the minister's refusal to answer Hon Ed Dermer's question last Wednesday about whether he had advised the Premier that his wife has shares in Wesfarmers and his failure to absent himself from cabinet deliberations.

- (1) Is the minister aware that the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet's code of conduct states that officers have an ethical responsibility to recognise and declare to the director general any private interest that may conflict, or may reasonably be seen to conflict, with work being undertaken by the ministry? Private interests include non-pecuniary interests, which are defined to include "allegiances to family and other relationships". The code further states that these allegiances represent a conflict only when the private interest of an officer can influence, or be perceived as influencing, his official public duties.
- (2) Why is it that ministry officials are required to declare family allegiances about what may be relatively minor matters, yet the minister has refused to say whether he did so about the sale of an asset worth hundreds of millions of dollars when his private interest could clearly be perceived as influencing his public duty?
- (3) Can he now say whether he advised the Premier of his wife's shares in Wesfarmers and why he failed to absent himself from cabinet discussions?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1)-(3) I understand that that does not apply to members of Parliament.