

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

111. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Why has the Premier kept Paul Frewer in an acting position at the Department of Water, despite Maxine Murray identifying a more than suitable permanent replacement for him?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

I think this question has been asked in the Parliament before, and it was directed to the responsible minister.

Mr T. Buswell: I don't think so.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I think it has.

Mr P.D. Omodei: Why is he there; full stop?

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: The question has been asked in the Parliament.

Mr T. Buswell interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Vasse!

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I do not have a particular view on the appropriateness or inappropriateness of the appointment. I understand that it was made according to correct procedure.

Mr P.D. Omodei interjected.

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition believes he can answer the question much better, but that is not his role in this place.

Mr P.D. Omodei: Maxine Murray identified a replacement and the Premier refused to put that person there. Since then, Paul Frewer has been discredited by the Corruption and Crime Commission through his connections with Brian Burke.

The SPEAKER: I call the Leader of the Opposition to order for the second time. If the Leader of the Opposition wishes to speak while I am on my feet, I will name him. Does he understand that?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: The office and officer in question fall under the direct ministerial approval or direction of the Minister for Water Resources.

Mr P.D. Omodei: You are the Minister for Public Sector Management.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: If the Leader of the Opposition is suggesting that there has been some impropriety, he should take his suggestion to the appropriate authority. While he is there, he might report himself and ask it to investigate his activities when he was the minister responsible for water.

Mr P.D. Omodei: You are a smart Alec!

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: The Leader of the Opposition should go to the CCC, turn himself in and say, "Listen, there's a whole range of things that I did when I was a minister that I think really deserve investigation, because they were totally improper and I'm lucky that I'm not in jail." Go down to the CCC and say, "By God, I think I'm lucky I'm not in jail; I did so many improper things when I was a minister." He should go down and turn himself in.

As far as I am aware there has never been a suggestion that matters relating to the appointment or otherwise of Paul Frewer would fall into the category of improper. If the Leader of the Opposition is making those suggestions, he should take his concerns to the appropriate authority.

Mr P.D. Omodei: You are the minister responsible. I raised it with you.

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: If the Leader of the Opposition has an issue and feels as though the matters are not being properly dealt with or there is some form of impropriety or corruption, there now exists in the state of Western Australia an authority that can investigate his claims. Please go down there and give a full confession.