

MR BARRY CARBON, CHAIRMAN, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY -
CONFLICT OF INTEREST

5594. Hon Giz Watson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment

I refer to a newspaper article titled, 'Resources Lobbyist for Green Watchdog', which appeared in *The Australian* Newspaper, page 7 Monday July 30 2007; 'Talks Ban for Chief Watchdog' which appeared in *The Australian* Newspaper, Page 8, Tuesday 31 July 2007; various conflict of interest publications which appear on the Corruption and Crime Commission website and the answers to question on notice No. 4720, of 4 April 2007, and ask -

- (1) Does the chairman of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Mr Barry Carbon clearly understand what is a 'conflict of interest' in order that he have no participation or influence in any matters being processed by the EPA that relate to any company for which he has previously acted or lobbied?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) If yes to (1), can the Minister explain why?
- (4) Can the Minister list all of the companies that Mr Barry Carbon has declared would constitute a conflict of interest or a perception of a conflict of interest?
- (5) If no to (4), why not?
- (6) Does the Minister agree that Mr Barry Carbon needed to step aside from any decisions that relate to any company which in the past he may have worked for or lobbied on their behalf?
- (7) If no to (6), why not?
- (8) If yes to (6), why?
- (9) Is it correct that Mr Barry Carbon stood aside from all discussions involving Woodside because of his recent work for the group?
- (10) If yes to (9), how and why did this come about?
- (11) If no to (9), why not?
- (12) Since the commencement of his position from August 1, 2007 as 'interim Chairman', can the Minister specifically identify and state what other companies, projects and proposals has Mr Barry Carbon declared a conflict of interest for and stood aside from in discussions or deliberations in matters being processed by the EPA?
- (13) If no to (12), why not?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Mr Carbon has had a long and distinguished career working for Governments in Australia and New Zealand and has a very clear understanding of his obligations as chairman of the EPA.
- (4) At the commencement of Mr Carbon's appointment in August he provided the Minister with the following list of organisations with which he has had an ongoing interest: Waste Management Board, Telstra, Commonwealth Government and the Queensland Government Superannuation Schemes and Masterkey Custom Superannuation Shareholdings (ABB Grain, Alumina, Amcor, AMP, BHP, Bluescope, Coca-cola Amatil, Fairfax Media, Henderson Group, Onesteel, Paperlinx, Tabcorp Holdings, Telstra and WA Newspapers).
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) It is the Minister's expectation that a member of the EPA would step aside from a decision where a conflict of interest or a perceived conflict of interest, exists.
- (7) See answer to (6).
- (8) See answer to (6).
- (9) The Minister has been advised that Mr Carbon stood aside from all decisions or discussions leading to decisions involving Woodside.
- (10) See answer to (9).

- (11) See answer to (9).
- (12) The Minister has been advised that during Mr Carbon's three month appointment as EPA chairman, he stood aside from all decisions, or discussions leading to decisions, relating to Woodside and Iluka. Mr Carbon had previously acted on behalf of Woodside, and had represented a farmer against Iluka.
- (13) Not applicable.