

MINISTERIAL CODE OF CONDUCT — CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

783. Hon PETER COLLIER to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer the Premier to part 5 of the Ministerial Code of Conduct relating to conflicts of interest.

- (1) What is the distinction between actual and perceived conflict of interest?
- (2) Is a minister required to declare any conflict of interest in relation to agenda items prior to every cabinet meeting; and, if not, why not?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) I refer the honourable member to the Integrity Coordinating Group paper in relation to conflicts of interest, a copy of which I now table. Further to that, the Integrity Coordinating Group website elaborates as follows —

Hon Nick Goiran: Who are they?

Hon SUE ELLERY: Why does the member not ask a question and I will answer it. Right now I am answering his leader's question. I will start my answer again —

- (1) I refer the honourable member to the Integrity Coordinating Group paper in relation to —

Hon Nick Goiran interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Hon Nick Goiran, I know you are really keen to hear the response to this question. You might allow the Leader of the House to finish the response before you encourage.

Hon SUE ELLERY: I will start again. The answer is as follows —

- (1) I refer the honourable member to the Integrity Coordinating Group paper in relation to conflicts of interest, a copy of which I will table. Further to that, the Integrity Coordinating Group website elaborates as follows —

An **actual** conflict of interest may arise when an employee is asked to make a decision as a public officer that directly affects or impacts their personal or private interests.

Importantly, some conflicts may only be perceived—an employee's decision could be questioned based on a personal or private interest that may not actually have impacted any decision.

I seek leave to table the document.

Leave granted. [See paper 848.]

- (2) Yes.