

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — ELECTED MEMBERS — EMPLOYER INFLUENCE

674. Hon SIMON O'BRIEN to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) What provision is there in statute, policy or practice to deal with a circumstance in which an elected member of a local government, who is also in paid employment, deals with a matter before council in a manner that is influenced by the opinion of his or her employer?
- (2) What provision is there in statute, policy or practice to deal with such a circumstance if the influence of the employer extends to a threat to the elected member, whether direct, implied or anticipated, that they risk losing their employment if that employee does not act in accordance with the employer's wishes?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1)–(2) The Local Government Act 1995, part 5, division 6, “Disclosure of financial interests”, sets out the disclosure of financial interests in matters affecting local government decisions, including financial interests, proximity interests, indirect interests, impartiality interests, interests not requiring disclosure and exemptions granted by the minister.

The member's question is not clear. If he were to provide specific details, the minister would be prepared to consider further. Any threat made by an employer to an employee related to their employment should be reported to the appropriate authorities.