

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY — GOVERNANCE PRACTICES CHANGE

651. Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the fact that the Environmental Protection Authority chairman took advice from the Public Sector Commissioner in 2011 concerning conflicts of interest.

- (1) Is the minister aware that the Public Sector Commissioner gave advice to the Environmental Protection Authority chairman that the authority's treatment of conflict of interest was "reasonable given the circumstances"?
- (2) Why is the minister allowing blame for the conflict-of-interest debacle to fall on the EPA chairman when he sought advice from more senior people in government?

Mr A.P. JACOB replied:

- (1)–(2) Again, there is no conspiracy theory that members opposite will not pursue or public servant they will not seek to smear in their pursuit of whatever political gain they seek to find. The member for Gosnells will find in that advice from the Public Sector Commissioner that he has very clearly stated that the code of conduct needs to comply fully with the Environmental Protection Act, which was very solid advice; and, ultimately, it was found that it did not.