

MEMBER FOR DARLING RANGE — PERSONAL EXPLANATION

966. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I note the member for Darling Range's statement provided on Thursday, 30 November in the other place and the Premier's subsequent decision to move to refer the aforementioned member to the Procedure and Privileges Committee, despite arguing against such a referral the previous afternoon.

- (1) When did the Premier learn of the contents of the member for Darling Range's statement?
- (2) With respect to (1), if the Premier had prior knowledge of the member's statement before 9.00 am on Thursday, 30 November, how was this knowledge obtained, and by whom or how was it conveyed, and at what moment?
- (3) Was anyone in the Premier's office involved directly or indirectly in reviewing or drafting a version or versions of the statement subsequently provided by the member for Darling Range?
- (4) Did anyone in the Premier's office receive or otherwise have prior access to a copy, even a draft copy, of the statement subsequently provided by the member for Darling Range?
- (5) If yes to (3) or (4), who received or had access to a copy?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1)–(5) The Premier's position has been consistent throughout the matter; namely, that the member for Darling Range be afforded the opportunity to make a full explanation to Parliament before the government determined any course of action. The Premier learned of the broad content of the member for Darling Range's statement immediately preceding the delivery of the statement that morning. A version had been delivered to a member of his staff, Mark Reed, for noting. Neither the Premier nor his office knew of the full and final extent of the member's statement until he delivered it to Parliament. Once the member for Darling Range had his opportunity to explain himself, the Premier subsequently deemed it appropriate to refer the matter to the Procedure and Privileges Committee for further investigation.