

ROAD SAFETY COMMISSIONER — KIM PAPALIA

262. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Road Safety:

I have a supplementary question. I find the minister's answer astonishing. Has the minister now availed herself —

Ms R. Saffioti: Is that written down for you?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: This is a very serious issue.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Has the minister now sought to understand the conversation that was had between Darren Foster and Kim Papalia last Thursday night and whether that conversation included Mr Papalia's tenure in the role of Road Safety Commissioner?

Mr J.E. McGrath: You're fired!

The SPEAKER: You'll be in a minute, member for South Perth.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS replied:

No, I have not spoken with either Mr Papalia or Mr Foster. All I have seen are the reports of that conversation.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition!

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Frankly, no-one was more astonished than me to find out that Mr Papalia had been seeking advice from the state solicitors without any conversation with me that he had been talking about taking out an injunction.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: This is a very serious issue. I can tell the member the advice that Mr Papalia got from the state solicitors was that it would be out of order and that he really did not have a case to pursue in terms of the injunction. If he wanted to pursue it, he would have had to have the support of the Minister for Road Safety; someone whom he had not even consulted about it. It is rather perplexing. With the machinery-of-government changes, as I understand it —

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition!

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: Unlike the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I like to do things properly.

The employment of directors general within government is a matter for the Public Sector Commissioner. I understand that he has been having the conversations about people's roles and changes and amalgamations and so forth. I have considered that to be appropriate.

Mrs L.M. Harvey: You're his minister; he answers to you.

The SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I will not warn you again.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition does not seem to understand at all the role of the Public Sector Commissioner. I understand that Mr Papalia has been having ongoing conversations with the Public Sector Commissioner, as is appropriate. He has chosen not to have those conversations with me.

The SPEAKER: That is the end of question time.