

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONER — CONSTRUCTION SUBCONTRACTOR COMPLAINTS —
INVESTIGATION

926. Hon KATE DOUST to the Minister for Small Business:

I refer to the letter of 8 November 2012 from the Small Business Commissioner to members advising that representations and advice about the commissioner's investigation of complaints from construction subcontractors will be provided to the Minister for Small Business on or before 21 December 2012.

- (1) Given that Parliament will have risen by 21 December 2012, will the minister give an undertaking to make public the full results of the Small Business Commissioner's investigation as soon as he receives it; and, if not, why not?
- (2) If no to (1), will the minister commit to releasing the report and any recommendations in full; and, if so, when will he release the report?
- (3) Will the minister provide a government response to the report and any recommendations prior to the government going into caretaker mode; and, if not, why not?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

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

- (1)–(3) The date has nothing to do with parliamentary sitting dates and, given the likely scope of the task, is a tight time frame. An early date was chosen because of the high priority that I place on this issue. The member may rest assured that consideration of the report will receive a similar priority so that a response may be provided as soon as possible. Obviously, given that the report may contain reference to disciplinary, criminal or commercially sensitive matters, I will not give a blanket guarantee to its full release before it is written.

Hon Ken Travers: Cover-up!

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: I beg your pardon? We're having an inquiry; that's not a cover-up!

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon Sue Ellery interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I think we've finished that question and answer.