

BROWSE LNG PROJECT — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY MEMBERS —
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

I have a supplementary question. Does the minister concede that he has created a situation of uncertainty for the business community and that a number of other proposals are now under a cloud because he has not fixed this problem?

Mr A.P. JACOB replied:

No, no and no. As I said, the EPA code of conduct has been tightened up.

Ms J.M. Freeman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mirrabooka!

Mr A.P. JACOB: It is an ongoing process that I would expect from any independent statutory authority that operates under government. As I said in my earlier answer, any recommendation made under legislation could conceivably be challenged in court at some time; nothing has changed that. The fact is that this one was overturned on a technicality relating to procedural matters, and we have accepted that. But there are always matters out there to be tested in the courts.

Mr C.J. Tallentire: Why not get people on the EPA who don't have a conflict of interest?

The SPEAKER: Member for Gosnells!

Mr A.P. JACOB: There are always matters out there to be tested in the courts. We have certainly learnt lessons from this one and we will be making sure that those circumstances do not arise again.