

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — HON DARREN WEST — COMPLAINTS

736. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to complaints referred to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries with respect to the Hon Darren West MLC and alleged breaches of the *Local Government Act 1995*, and I ask:

- (a) is the investigation ongoing or has it concluded;
- (b) what were the result of the investigation;
- (c) who was interviewed as a result of the complaint;
- (d) who led the investigation within the department;
- (e) were Department of Premier and Cabinet or parliamentary resources used to make the donations in question; and
- (f) does the Minister support such overt influence in Local Government elections by a member of the Executive Government?

**Hon Sue Ellery replied:**

- (a) The matter has been finalised.
- (b) In one case, that no breaches of the Local Government (Election) Regulations 1997 had occurred. In the other, that breaches had occurred; and as is normal practice in the circumstances a letter reminding the person of interest of their obligations under the Regulations was sent.
- (c) No interviews were conducted, however, evidence was sourced from the relevant local governments and person of interest.
- (d) The investigations were overseen by the Manager Sector Governance, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.
- (e) The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries did not investigate the source of the donation, as it was not relevant to the alleged breaches of the Regulations.
- (f) There is no statute that prohibits Members of Parliament from making donations to candidates in local government elections.