

COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL ACT CHANGES — HIGH COURT DECISION

485. Hon ED DERMER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:

I refer to the recent High Court decision ruling that the Howard government's changes to the commonwealth Electoral Act in 2006 were invalid. What was the total legal cost of the state government's involvement in this case?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. As the state was represented by legal officers employed by the state, no legal costs were incurred by the state with respect to its involvement in the case. The court did not make any order for costs against the state. The only direct costs incurred by the state were in respect of court fees, travelling and accommodation expenses, meals and other related expenses.

Several members interjected.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I do not have that information, but if the honourable member wishes to have the precise figure, I will explore that further.