

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY — PREMIER MCGOWAN

**1036. Hon BEN DAWKINS to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:**

I refer the Premier to the news article dated 10 September 2023 from Ms Kathryn Diss of the ABC and the phone call between former Premier Mark McGowan and the head of the Environmental Protection Authority, Dr Tom Hatton, referred to in the article.

- (1) Was there any correspondence or conversation between the former Premier and any industry group or companies such as Woodside prior to the phone call?
- (2) If so, can the Premier table the correspondence and any file note; and, if not, why not?
- (3) Will the Premier refer this matter to the Corruption and Crime Commission and the parliamentary inspector for investigation?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

- (1)–(3) The matter raised by the member was detailed comprehensively in media reports in 2019.

For the record, I refer the member to public comments made by the former chair of the Environmental Protection Agency, Dr Tom Hatton, to an article published by ABC Online on 14 March 2019. He said —

“My conversation with the Premier today was respectful, it was measured, it was informative, I didn’t feel pressured.

“He was giving me feedback from industry that I was already getting from industry, so there were no surprises there.

...

“We remain independent in terms of what we do with that information and nothing has changed there.