



STANDING ORDERS AND PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

REPORT ON PERSON REFERRED TO
IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

JOHN VERNE MAWSON

Laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly
10 September 1998

REPORT

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly referred to the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee a letter from Mr John Verne Mawson seeking to use Standing Order 165A to respond to a statement made in a report from the Australian Federal Police, tabled by the then Minister for Police on 5 September 1996.

The Committee has agreed to the attached response proposed by Mr Mawson.

It should be noted that Standing Order 165A specifically precludes the Committee from considering or judging the truth of any statements made in the Assembly or in the submission.

Recommendation

Your Committee recommends -

That a response by Mr Mawson in the terms specified in the Appendix to this report, be incorporated in *Hansard*.

CHAIRMAN

Response by John Verne Mawson
Agreed to by Mr Mawson and the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee pursuant to
Standing Order 165A

My name is John Verne Mawson.

I was adversely referred to in respect of the Argyle Diamond Inquiry in the Australian Federal Police Report (the Report) tabled by the then Minister for Police on 5 September 1996.

In the report it was stated that I was to be counselled in respect of my failing to follow due process. Nothing could have been further from the truth. The report also made reference to me by way of offering immunity to witnesses, again this was totally incorrect, in fact, I counselled others strongly against doing that. I took the matter up with the Assistant Commissioner (Professional Standards) and following a further inquiry it was ascertained that there was no evidence to substantiate that adverse finding against me.

I received a letter from the Commissioner of Police advising me of this. Sometime later I wrote to the Minister for Police enclosing a copy of the Commissioner's letter and requesting that it be added as a corrigendum to the report and be tabled in Parliament as was the original report.

I received a letter back from the Minister a good deal of time later advising me that he could not accede to my request as he was not the owner of the report.

Copies of all relevant correspondence should be with the Minister under his reference 32445, and I can provide copies from my own files.

My only request is that the matter be put straight should at any time in the future the report tabled in Parliament originally be resurrected for whatever reason.