

PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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SELECT COMMITTEE ON MATTERS
RELATING TO AN INQUIRY BY THE
COMMISSIONER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS
INTO BURSWOOD MANAGEMENT LIMITED

SPECIAL REPORT ON PRESENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

Presented by the Hon. TOM McNEIL MLC (Chairman)

JUNE 1988

As Chairman of the Select Committee on Burswood Management Ltd. I feel obliged to express my serious concern at the Committee's continued operation with its current membership.

I refer in particular to the position of Hon. Neil Oliver.

Information has been drawn to my attention which indicates that, even since the Committee's establishment, Mr. Oliver has held discussions with individuals who have been associated with earlier complaints on related issues and who could be expected to appear or be called as witnesses before the Committee.

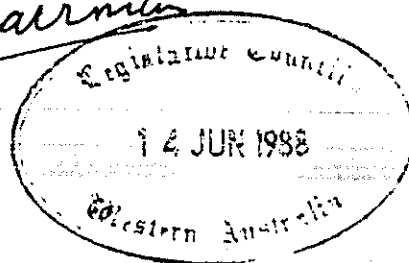
On the material available to me I believe that the nature of Mr. Oliver's discussions must cast serious doubts on his impartiality. That, in turn, has serious implications for the conduct of the Committee's enquiries and the acceptability of its conclusions.

In these circumstances I wish to record my objection to Mr. Oliver's continued membership. I also place it on record that I have asked him to withdraw but that he has declined to do so.

I have also approached Hon. Gordon Masters, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council and made him aware of my concern and some of the material in which that is based. I regret that he has not seen fit to take any action.

In spite of my strong reservations about the Committee's composition I propose that our enquiries now continue, if only to avoid the prejudice to senior public servants and others, which could well arise from further delay.

J. McKel
Chairman



MINORITY REPORT OF THE HON. NEIL OLIVER, MLC - MEMBER OF THE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON BURSWOOD MANAGEMENT LTD

I must express my utter and total amazement at the lengths to which certain individuals are prepared to go to frustrate the clearly expressed decision of this Chamber in my appointment to the Select Committee on Burswood Management Limited.

I am not aware in my reading of modern parliamentary history of a single instance which compares with the events of the last two days.

What we have with this majority report is totally unsubstantiated allegations. I myself do not know the substance of those allegations.

I totally reject and disassociate myself from any evidence gathered by the Committee which is the substance of the allegations.

Whereas Members of Parliament, and for all I know private citizens who I have never heard of, have also been given access to that information - I, as the subject of these claims, have not, based on legal advice, sought access to this information.

I should say at this point that this whole episode is but the latest, attempt over the last few weeks to ensure that I do not sit on this Select Committee.

The allegations and smears that have been circulated through this latest attempt to denigrate my integrity and remove me from this Committee are contemptible. They are also false and, further, they constitute a contempt not only for the established privileges of Parliament but for the parliamentary system itself.

It has been suggested that in making enquiries about this matter and speaking to interested persons I have in some way committed myself to a particular view. I reject those allegations on legal advice. The true position is that it is my duty as a Member of Parliament to act on the evidence before the Select Committee without fear or favour.

Neil Oliver

