



Hon Bill Johnston MLA
Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Industrial Relations;

Our ref: 71-17367

Hon Kate Doust MLC
President
Legislative Council of WA
Parliament House
Harvest Tce
Perth WA 6000

Dear ^{Kate} President

I am writing to you regarding Report 35 of the Standing Committee on Public Administration, which was tabled in the Council of 25 November 2020.

It is not my intention to argue concerning the general nature of this Report, however I raise a question of natural justice.

To the extent that this report can be taken to adversely reflect on the conduct of the Government or by me as Minister for Industrial Relations, I point out that the Committee did not provide any opportunity for comment prior to the Report being tabled.

I would say that this is clearly a breach of natural justice.

Further, I note that it appears the Committee did not take any evidence or conduct any hearings in deciding to table this Report. Had the Committee provided me with the opportunity to comment prior to its deliberations, the Committee would have seen that there was no reason to table Report 35.

No one can doubt my respect for the proper functioning of the Legislative Council, and its Committees. This is another reason that I am disappointed that the Committee chose to act in the manner in which it did.

Indeed, I point out that 3 ½ years ago, the Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Administration asked me if I saw value in her Committee conducting an inquiry into the operations of WorkSafe – to which I replied that I thought it would be worthwhile and I encouraged her to establish such an inquiry.

In conclusion, I would preferred not to have to write this letter, but I do believe that the Committee's conduct has denied me natural justice.

Yours sincerely

Hon Bill Johnston MLA
Ministers for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Industrial Relations

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