

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Question on notice

21 JUN 2011

Tuesday, 12 April 2011

3817. Hon Robin Chapple to the Leader of the House representing the Premier.

I refer to security arrangements relating to the proposed Woodside Browse LNG Hub at James Price Point, and ask -

(1) Has any member of the Western Australian Public Service been released on leave without pay or a similar arrangement, in order to engage in employment with Woodside or a contractor thereof, at any time from 2009 to the present?

(2) If yes to (1), -

(a) on what date did this occur;

(b) is this arrangement ongoing;

(c) what Agency is this person employed with;

(d) what were the duties of this person in the Western Australian Public Service prior to their current circumstances;

(e) who approved the placing of this person on leave without pay status; and

(f) was leave without pay status for this person approved with the knowledge that this person would be employed by Woodside in a security role?

(3) Does the Minister support the practice of Western Australian Public Service employees taking leave without pay, in order to gain employment with a company that enjoys considerable support from the Western Australian Government, with regards to its proposed Browse LNG hub?

Answer

Department of the Premier and Cabinet advises:

(1-3) A permanent officer in the Office of State Security and Emergency Coordination of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet in December 2009 sought the approval of the Director General of the Department to proceed on annual and long service leave to be followed by 12 months leave without pay to take up a position of Crisis Management Coordinator with Woodside. The officer was the successful candidate for the position.

In applying for the leave, the officer also sought approval for external employment for reward pursuant to s102(e) of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, which was granted by the Acting Director General in January 2010.

The officer resigned from the public service with effect from 10 June 2011.

It is not uncommon that public service officers be granted leave without pay to seek employment in the private sector and such leave arrangements are contained in industrial awards and agreements to facilitate them.