

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

QUESTION without notice

of which some notice was given

Monday, 25 June 2012

Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for the Environment

With reference to an article in The West Australian today stating that four out of five Board Members of the Environmental Protection Authority were excluded from voting on the proposed gas hub at James Price Point project because of potential conflicts of interest I ask:

- 1) When did each one of the four board members first declare a conflict of interest in the Browse development?
- 2) Did the four EPA board members, who were excluded from discussions and decisions on the final recommendation, participate in earlier discussions and deliberations during assessment of the Browse project?
- 3) If yes to 2) why?
- 4) If yes to 2) what was the nature of their discussions and deliberations?
- 5) Did the four board members with a conflict of interest attend a meeting with the Broome community groups in November 2011?
- 6) If yes to 4) why and in what capacity did they attend?

I thank the Hon. Member for some notice of this question.

The Minister for Environment has provided the following response:

- (1)-(6) The Chairman of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has advised that EPA members (excluding Ms Elizabeth Carr) participated in discussions and site visits for the Browse LNG Precinct Strategic Assessment up until 16 February 2012. The EPA Chairman determined that the members could participate in the discussions up to that time. The EPA Chairman determined that the members should not participate in considerations, discussions or decision making after that time.
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