

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
Question on notice

Thursday, 10 April 2014

1086. Hon Robin Chappie to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Regional Development.

I refer to the appointment of Sue Middleton, who worked on the 2013 National Party campaign (*Hansard*, 11 June 2013, page 1164), to the Chair of the Western Australian Regional Development Trust (WARDT), and I ask:

- (a) how many contracts have been let by the current and former Minister for Regional Development's departments to Sue Middleton's consulting businesses;
- (b) on what dates were these contracts let;
- (c) have all of these contracts been concluded;
- (d) will any of these contracts need the newly appointed Chair of the WARDT to declare an interest in these matters;
- (e) is there any conflict of interest by the new Chair of the WARDT and the Minister's support for Moora Citrus operated by the Chair; and
- (f) has the newly appointed Chair of the WARDT received any grants from the Minister's department to any operation managed or controlled by her family?

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Answer

DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- (a) Nil
- (b) - (d) Not applicable
- (e) No
- (f) No

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS

- (a) Nil
- (b) - (d) Not applicable
- (e) No
- (f) No

LANDCORP

- (a) One
- (b) 21 March 2014
- (c) No - due to conclude 30/06/2014
- (d) No
- (e) No
- (f) No

LANDGATE

- (a) None
- (b) - (d) Not applicable
- (e) No
- (f) No

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#### **GASCOYNE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

- (a) Nil
- (b) - (d) Not applicable
- (e) No
- (f) No

#### **GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

- (a) Nil
- (b) - (d) Not applicable
- (e) No
- (f) No

#### **GREAT SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

- (a) Two
- (b) 1 July 2013 and 24 February 2014
- (c) Yes
- (d) **Sue Middleton** was engaged to undertake a desktop peer review of the **Draft Great Southern Regional Blueprint** in February 2014. The contract was successfully completed and **Ms Middleton** paid on 12 **March 2014**. **GSDC** understands **Ms Middleton** was not the chair of the **WARDT** at that time and therefore assesses she would not be required to declare a conflict of interest in regard to that role. **Ultimately** however, such assessment as to whether a conflict exists and should be declared is **Ms Middleton's**.
- (e) No
- (f) No

#### **KIMBERLEY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

- (a) Nil
- (b) - (d) Not applicable
- (e) No
- (f) No

#### **MID WEST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

- (a) Nil
- (b) - (d) Not applicable
- (e) No
- (f) No

**PEEL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

- (a) Nil
- (b) - (d) Not applicable
- (e) No
- (f) No

**PILBARA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

- (a) Nil
- (b) - (d) Not applicable
- (e) No
- (f) No

**SOUTHWEST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

- (a) Nil
- (b) - (d) Not applicable
- (e) No
- (f) No

**WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

- (a) Nil
- (b) - (d) Not applicable
- (e) No
- (f) No