



## Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

### **Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023** **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Asked by Mr Peter Cain MLA on 17 November 2023: Mr John Dietz took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard [uncorrected] proof transcript 17 November 2023, pages 15-16

In relation to: Reportable Incidents

**MR CAIN:** Minister, page 41 of the 22-23 Suburban Land Agency Annual Report outlines several decisions that were made in relation to reportable incidents from 21-22. Although I am aware that several matters are the subject of ongoing investigation, I would like to inquire into the nature of these incidents. If you look at that page, on point 3, it notes that one matter was referred to the Integrity Commissioner and remains ongoing. Could you please provide a general overview of what this matter was in relation to?

**Mr Dietz:** I do think it would be inappropriate for me to go specifically into any matters with the Integrity Commissioner. On a general basis, over the years that the Integrity Commissioner has been in play, the SLA has reported matters to the Integrity Commissioner. I actually think we urge on the side of caution and make sure that we do report anything to the commissioner that should, could or possibly be.

In general, the types of matters that we do are related to land sales process, related to staff misconduct, or supply complaints. In any of these cases, if there is an issue that is brought to us and we think that the issue may have substance, then it will go through to the integrity commissioner.

**MR CAIN:** Are you able to describe the general character of it? Is it a conflict of interest? Misuse of funds? Inappropriate dealings with developers or with land?

**Mr Dietz:** I think if I was to go into greater detail then there is a possibility of—

**THE CHAIR:** Mr Cain, I think that is probably not a suitable line of questioning, and I believe you would probably be alert to that from previous hearings.

**MR CAIN:** It is open to the witness to answer it, and they are answering it.

**MS ORR:** Not if the question is out of order.

**Mr Dietz:** I actually was just saying that I am not prepared—

**THE CHAIR:** Mr Cain, I think we have been on this ground before. If you have a question that is an appropriate question to ask, you are welcome to put it, but it is best not to try to prejudice the outcome of the Integrity Commission proceedings.

**MR CAIN:** Thank you, Chair. Point 5—

**Ms Berry:** Can I just make a correction? I misspoke when I said that CSIRO was definitely infill, so I just want to correct that.

**THE CHAIR:** Brownfield. I think we both misspoke, minister. It is okay. I think we have got the answer on notice coming. I think we both misspoke.

**Ms Berry:** Yes. I just wanted to make that clear.

**MR CAIN:** Point 5, in terms of incidents of reporting, that one matter was closed with a finding of misconduct and appropriate action was taken. Could you please provide further details about the incident that this finding was in relation to, and what was the action taken?

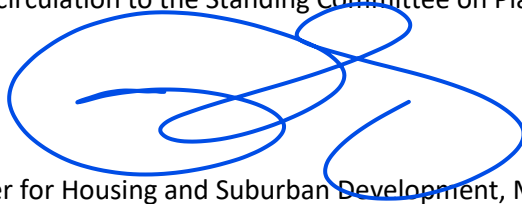
**Mr Dietz:** Again, I will take that on notice, and as part of me taking on notice I will look to see whether it is appropriate for me to provide such details.

Ms Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

In February 2022, through the Suburban Land Agency's (SLA) internal governance processes we identified a possible breach of policy in relation to a staff member's conflict of interest declaration. A preliminary assessment determined the matter did not meet threshold requirements for referral to the Integrity Commission or Public Sector Standards Commissioner. While the matter did not require referral, SLA addressed this issue through a letter of counselling to the staff member reminding them of their obligations and SLA's policy framework, with the outcome being included in the 2022-23 Annual Report for transparency.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Signature:



Date:

28/11/23

By the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Ms Yvette Berry MLA