



Speech by

**Hon. Paul Lucas**

**MEMBER FOR LYTTON**

Hansard Tuesday, 15 June 2004

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Fraud and Corruption Prevention, Department of Main Roads**

**Hon. P.T. LUCAS** (Lytton—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.09 a.m.): I wish to inform the House of a new series of mandatory fraud prevention and corruption training that will be delivered to all Main Roads employees. Last month my office received an anonymous, unsourced letter containing allegations of Main Roads employees being involved in fraud and corruption. My director-general referred this letter to the CMC for investigation. I should stress, however, that the allegations contained therein were unsourced and not verified. When an Auditor-General's report into a RoadTek conference for Department of Main Roads staff last year uncovered inappropriate hospitality expenditure Main Roads was put on notice. I expect strict adherence to guidelines covering the supply of hospitality and there are now procedures in place to ensure that this will not be repeated and 17 recommendations have been made as a result of internal audits into this matter.

I treat allegations of fraud and corruption very seriously. I will not tolerate this kind of behaviour. Main Roads will provide its full cooperation with the CMC to investigate these latest allegations of official misconduct. On Friday, both my directors-general and I met with the Auditor-General and shared with him our ongoing determination to ensure best practice in my departments. Since July 2003 Main Roads has provided a fraud prevention and corruption training course to a thousand staff on a voluntarily basis. Today my director-general has provided Main Roads staff with a memo instructing them that they will all undertake mandatory fraud prevention and corruption training. Everyone from the director-general down will need to complete this training. Main Roads has also sent its training material to the CMC to review to ensure that it is consistent with the CMC in terms of content and delivery.

Main Roads employees are also being encouraged to report any misconduct in their workplace. Full whistleblower protection will, of course, apply. Main Roads will continue to work with the CMC and the Auditor-General to establish a best practice framework for fraud and corruption prevention within the department.