

Question on Notice
No. 792
Asked on 31 October 2013

MR MULHERIN asked the Premier (MR NEWMAN)—

With reference to the appointment of the Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Board—

Will the Premier advise (a) the date of the appointment to the board, (b) the date of the Director-General's declaration of interests relating to his position on the board, (c) the nature of the Director-General's interest in Gasfields Water and Waste Pty Ltd, (d) the date the government authorised the Director-General to continue to act on the government's behalf, despite the potential conflicts of interests, (e) the date and substance of the advice received by the Director-General from the Integrity Commissioner and will the Premier provide a copy of the advice?

ANSWER:

The Honourable Tony Burke MP, former Commonwealth Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, used his power under section 15 of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (Commonwealth) to appoint Mr Grayson as a temporary member of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority from 27 August 2012. The Governor-General of Australia appointed Mr Grayson as a full member from 22 November 2012 for a period of three years.

Under Section 10(4) of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* the Commonwealth Government must invite the Queensland Government to nominate a person to be a member of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Since 2000, successive Queensland Governments have responded to this invitation by nominating the person appointed as the Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to the role.

Full members of the Authority are appointed by the Governor-General of Australia on the advice of the Commonwealth Minister responsible for the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. After responding to the invitation to nominate, the Queensland Government has no further role in the appointment or its term.

On 30 October 2013, in response to claims made in the media, the Honourable Greg Hunt MP, Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, announced that an independent probity inquiry would look into the claims. Therefore, the Queensland Government will ensure this inquiry runs its course without interference and without engaging in parallel inquiries which seek only to speculate on the outcomes.