

RESPONSE TO PREMIER'S STATEMENT

SUMMARY

- **The Premier of Western Australia The Honourable Colin Barnett has today made a statement regarding a complaint made to the Western Australian Corruption and Crime Commissioner**
- **Mr Russell Barnett, the son of Mr Colin Barnett and a director of Freedom Eye Ltd, and Freedom Eye Ltd have been named in the complaint received by the Western Australian Corruption and Crime Commissioner**
- **Freedom Eye Ltd concur fully with the statements made by the Premier and hereby reject all statements made within the complaint.**

Perth, Australia. 13 July 2009: The Board of Freedom Eye Limited (ASX: FYI) announce that they are aware and have read the statement made earlier today by the Premier of Western Australia, The Honourable Colin Barnett. A copy of the Premier's statement is attached hereto.

The Company implicitly agrees with all statements made by the Premier with respect to this matter and hereby reject and deny all of the claims made within the complaint.

The Directors of Freedom Eye Ltd are currently receiving advice on what further actions (if any) they may take in regard to this matter and will take whatever action they deem necessary and appropriate to protect the Company from any adverse commercial consequences that might result from these unsubstantiated allegations.

- End -

Further Information:

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Government of **Western Australia**
Department of the **Premier and Cabinet**

Premier

13/7/09

Statement by the Premier, Hon Colin Barnett MLA

On Tuesday 30 June, I was informed in writing by the Corruption and Crime Commissioner, the Honourable Len Roberts-Smith, that the CCC had received a complaint against me.

The complaint alleges that there has been some form of misconduct in relation to my role in seeking the removal of 'The Cliffe' – a property in Peppermint Grove in my electorate of Cottesloe – from the Register of State Heritage Places.

By way of a grievance in the Legislative Assembly on 30 August 2007, I argued the case for the removal of 'The Cliffe' from the Register of State Heritage Places. I did so as the Member for Cottesloe in representing a constituent.

On 14 May 2008, I moved a motion in the Legislative Assembly for the removal of 'The Cliffe' from the Register of State Heritage Places. The Legislative Assembly agreed to that resolution. A similar motion was passed in the Legislative Council on 29 May 2008. Removing a property from the Register of State Heritage Places requires the consent of both Houses of Parliament.

These actions are all on the public record and I stand by them.

The allegation appears to suggest that my motivation to have 'The Cliffe' removed from the Register of State Heritage Places was in some way designed to benefit my son, Russell Barnett, who is Chair of a public company. Mr Mark Creasy, the owner of 'The Cliffe', is a shareholder of that company. I have only become aware of this association since this complaint has been made and knew nothing of it at the time of taking action in relation to 'The Cliffe'.

This allegation is false and I refute it unequivocally. I take particular exception that this allegation involves my son who is not a public figure and played no role whatsoever in my actions with respect to 'The Cliffe'.

I have been informed by the CCC Commissioner that the CCC has forwarded a copy of the complaint to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly because the Commissioner states that the allegation centres on what has been said in the Parliament and, therefore, the issue of Parliamentary privilege arises.

I make this statement today in the interests of openness and accountability, principles upon which this government was elected and which I stand by wholeheartedly. However, I am restricted in what I can say at this stage.

I expect that, in due course, the full details of the complaint will become public.

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