

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Mr Vowles to the Chief Minister:

**Overseas Travel by Hon Willem Westra van Holthe**

When did you first become aware the former Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries:

1. Had conducted, or intended to conduct, discussions on private business matters with the CT group when travelling in Vietnam on official Government business?
  2. Had conducted, or intended to conduct, discussions on private business matters with the CT group when travelling in Vietnam at his own expense?
  3. What steps did you subsequently take to assure yourself that the Minister's discussions with CT Group in (1) and (2) above did not contravene:
    - (a) The Ministerial Code of Conduct?
    - (b) Any Northern Territory or Commonwealth statutes?
  4. Will you ask the former Minister to repay all costs incurred on taxpayer funded trips to Vietnam during which he discussed private business matters with the CT group?
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**ANSWER**

1. I had no knowledge of any private business matters being discussed with the CT group at that time.
2. As above.
3. Not applicable.

4. On each official trip the then Minister made he was on government business and undertook government business. When on personal leave I understand he paid his own fare. I am not aware of separate discussions on private business matters while on official business.

It was only on 11 March that I became aware the NT Police have concluded a preliminary Investigation into the allegations and advised that no further information or lawfully obtained evidence has been identified to support a reasonable belief that criminal conduct has occurred sufficient to enliven a criminal investigation case.