

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Vowles to the Minister for Essential Services:

Pre-payment to Latitude Travel

When you approved on 18 September 2013 (or later) overseas travel to the UK and USA for the Planning Commissioner, were you aware that a pre-payment of \$21,038 for the trip had already been made to Latitude Travel?

ANSWER

Ongoing meetings were held with the Department of Lands Planning and Environment (DLPE) at which preparations for this trip were discussed from 30 January 2013 until the date of travel on 21 September 2013.

On 3 September 2013 I sought formal approval from the Chief Minister for my participation on this trip. Included in this Ministerial was advice that the Planning Commissioner would be accompanying me on the trip.

The Chief Minister approved the Ministerial on 6 September 2013.

The Chief Executive of DLPE authorised payment of an invoice for the Commissioner's travel on 3 September 2013 in line with my Ministerial of the same day. The payment was subsequently approved for payment by the Chief Executive on 6 September 2013.

DLPE prepared a further Ministerial to ratify my earlier approval of the Commissioner's travel. I approved this Ministerial on 18 September 2013.