

MEDIA RELEASE

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COX'S SUPPORT FOR BANK ADVERTISING

Murchison MLC Ruth Forrest, today raised serious concern over the Minister for Infrastructure Jim Cox and his "deal" with a major bank to allow their advertising material for credit card applications to be inserted in DIER renewal notices sent out for car registrations.

"I have received several complaints over the past week questioning the Department's role in providing a bank with the opportunity to send unsolicited material, particularly credit card applications, to unsuspecting households from the Department, together with registration renewal notices" said Ms Forrest.

"It is inappropriate that a Government Department has taken action and I ask what benefit does Minister Cox, or the department, receive in return for this service" Ms Forrest asked.

Ms Forrest's queries to Jim Cox's office confirmed that this is "standard" and actually lowers the cost of registrations. Ms Forrest was informed that Minister Cox's office had also received calls of complaint.

"Details of this arrangement should be provided, including the amount that is paid by a company for this service as well as the benefit to the taxpayer detailing the impact on registration fees" Ms Forrest stated.

"The fact that unsolicited material is being distributed with important government generated documents, that require a response and payment, has the capacity to confuse and concern recipients as has been evidenced by callers to my office as well as the Minister Cox's office" Ms Forrest stated.

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For further information phone 0419 879 524

Mrs Jan Sadler from Flowerdale is willing to speak with the press in relation to this matter and can be contacted on 64421468