Mr Richard Willis  
Secretary  
Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration  
Parliament House  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Mr Willis,

INQUIRY INTO VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT DECISION MAKING,  
CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL PROCESSES

I refer to the invitations issued by the Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration to Mr George Svigos and Ms Fiona Macrae (the Advisers) to attend and give evidence at a public hearing on 12 March 2010.

The opposition parties know full well that there is a long-standing convention that Ministerial advisers do not appear before Parliamentary committees and the Government has no intention of breaching that convention.

I have directed the Advisers not to attend this hearing because:

(a) in accordance with the Constitutional convention known as the McMullan Principle, Ministerial advisers are not liable to be called to give evidence before parliamentary committees;

(b) the Advisers are advisers to Ministers who are members of the Legislative Assembly and therefore cannot be compelled to attend by Legislative Council Committees; and

(c) evidence given by the Advisers would be subject to executive privilege (public interest immunity).

The Advisers will therefore not be attending the hearing on 12 March.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

ROB HULLS MP  
Attorney-General