9 MAR 2010

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 invitation issued by the Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration to Ms Peta Duke 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 Ms Duke not to attend this hearing because, 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. Moreover, evidence given by Ms Duke would be subject to executive privilege (public interest immunity). Ms Duke will therefore not be attending the hearing on 12 March.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

ROB HULLS MP
Attorney General