



MEDIA RELEASE

24 August 2009

Statement from the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards

The following is a statement from Commissioner for Public Sector Standards Dr Ruth Shean:

As Commissioner for Public Sector Standards, I have a responsibility to assist in the appointment of public sector chief executive officers. As specified by the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* (PSM Act), I am notified when there is a vacancy for a chief executive officer. The PSM Act requires that I oversee the recruitment process for these positions and nominate people suitable for appointment to the Minister for Public Sector Management.

Since the Premier announced on 13 July 2009 that the roles of Commissioner for Public Sector Standards and Public Sector Commissioner would be amalgamated, I have given considerable thought to my future in the public sector, given that the position of Commissioner for Public Sector Standards will no longer exist. I wish to continue to serve the State Government of Western Australia. For me to do this in a senior capacity, it will be necessary for me to apply for suitable chief executive officer positions as they become vacant.

Clearly, this would present a conflict for me, given that I oversee part of the recruitment process. This being the case, I have decided to delegate my responsibilities under sections 45 and 48 of the PSM Act to the Public Sector Commissioner for any new positions which become available. I am advised that I am able to do this under section 23 of the PSM Act. I will continue to process those chief executive officer positions currently being handled by my office, namely the chief executive officer positions for the Department of Regional Development and Lands and the Department of Agriculture and Food.

As chief executive officer positions become vacant, I am then free to apply for positions in the normal manner.

I will continue to fulfil my other duties under the PSM Act and the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003* as specified.

ENDS

Media contact:

Phil Torrissi
Communications Manager
0423 290 180 or 9260 6627
phillip.torrissi@opssc.wa.gov.au