



THE HON PETER DUTTON MP
MINISTER FOR REVENUE AND ASSISTANT TREASURER

Mr Tony Windsor MP
Member for New England
PO Box 963
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

12 DEC 2006

Tony
Dear Mr Windsor

Thank you for your personal representations of 13 October 2006 on behalf of Mr G MacAuley, 35/118 Karimbla Road, Miranda, NSW 2228, concerning the Westpoint group of companies. I apologise for the delay in replying to you.

Mr MacAuley has written on these issues a number of times and received a response from my office on 26 October 2006.

As has been explained to Mr MacAuley, it is the Government's firm intent to see those people associated with Westpoint, who deliberately misled investors, brought to account.

The Government's view is that it is highly likely that significant breaches of the law have been committed by some of the individuals responsible for operating and promoting the Westpoint schemes, and that all efforts should be made to bring these people to justice. As you will be aware, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) is dealing with the specific regulatory questions on this issue.

ASIC is continuing its investigations into the conduct of a number of parties involved in the operation and promotion of the Westpoint schemes. It is currently questioning the founder of Westpoint, Norman Carey, in the Federal Court in an effort to trace the location of the funds that were raised by the various Westpoint schemes. One of the main purposes of ASIC's efforts in this and other similar cases is to identify assets that may rightfully belong to creditors.


ASIC will continue to investigate all aspects of the collapse of the Westpoint group of companies. Heavy penalties, both civil and criminal, apply to persons who may be in breach of their obligations under the *Corporations Act 2001*. Anyone found to be in breach of the law will be referred by ASIC to the Director of Public Prosecutions for further action.

The Government fully supports ASIC's efforts to assist Westpoint investors and to investigate any potential breaches of the law. In its recent budget the Government has ensured that ASIC has sufficient funding to carry out its responsibilities through various measures, including the allocation of additional funding of \$30 million per annum for the investigation and litigation of exceptional matters of significant public interest such as Westpoint.

The Government is closely monitoring legal developments in the Westpoint case.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. I trust this information will be of assistance in responding to Mr. MacAulay.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter Dutton".

PETER DUTTON