

Barnett defends Faragher appointment

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Western Australian Premier Colin Barnett has defended his decision to appoint Donna Faragher as the state's Environment Minister.

Mr Faragher's husband works for the LNG giant, Woodside.

The Opposition has described the appointment as unwise and has suggested her position will become untenable because of the company's presence in Western Australia.

Mr Barnett has already instructed that any environmental decisions involving the company will be dealt with by Planning Minister John Day because of a conflict of interest.

He says Ms Faragher will also stand aside from any Cabinet decisions involving Woodside.

"As a matter of course we've put in place a strict procedure that if there is any conflict of interest, that Minister immediately declares that and absences themselves from Cabinet and that's happened on some minor issues already," he said.



The Premier says Ms Faragher will stand aside from any cabinet decisions involving Woodside. (ABC News : ABC News, file photo)