

Minister remains defiant over wife's shares

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The Minister for Mines and Petroleum Norman Moore is standing firm on his wife's right to hold shares in BHP-Billiton and Woodside, despite increasing concern about a conflict of interest.

Some Liberal MPs are now expressing the view that Mr Moore's wife should sell the shares to put an end to the matter.

Mr Moore had to declare an interest at today's Cabinet meeting, which resolved to end the ban on uranium mining in WA.

The Premier Colin Barnett says the shareholding was deemed NOT to constitute a conflict of interest and Mr Moore took part in the decision.

Mr Moore says he does not expect conflict of interest issues will arise very often.

"I have to say to you, BHP and Woodside don't get a guernsey at Cabinet every day and in fact they haven't had one since I've been here other than this uranium issue which is a generic matter anyway," he said.