

Statement by the Hon Peter Slipper MP

“Some allegations have been made against me by Mr James Ashby.

“I emphatically deny these allegations.

“The allegations include both a claim of criminal behaviour and a claim under civil law.

“Any allegation of criminal behaviour is grave and should be dealt with in a manner that shows appropriate regard to the integrity of our democratic institutions and to precedent.

“As such, I believe it is appropriate for me to stand aside as Speaker while this criminal allegation is resolved.

“The allegation is incorrect, and once it is clear they are untrue I shall return to the Speakership. I would appreciate the relevant bodies dealing with the matter expeditiously.

“In relation to the civil matter there will be an appropriate process that will resolve the matter in due course.

“The Deputy Speaker, Ms Anna Burke MP, will act as Speaker during this period.”