

Moore's wife sells mining shares

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Mr Moore says he was never in breach of the Ministerial Code of Conduct.

The Western Australian Minister for Mines, Norman Moore, says his wife's decision to sell some of her shareholdings should not be seen as an acknowledgment they have done anything wrong.

Mr Moore has been dogged by conflict of interest claims for a fortnight.

Today he announced his wife had sold shares in BHP Billiton, Woodside and Wesfarmers, at a loss of about \$100,000.

"My wife is not prepared to see the Government attacked on a daily basis in relation to matters that are her business," he said.

Mr Moore says he was never in breach of the Ministerial Code of Conduct, but says some people find that too difficult to comprehend.

"The acknowledgment is that my wife has made a decision that this constant media attention to our family is something that she does not want to see continue and so she's taken this course of action," he said.

Opposition Leader Eric Ripper says the decision is better late than never.

"Mr Moore has had to be dragged kicking and screaming," he said.

"Mr Moore's action at last recognises that his public duty has to prevail over his private interests.

"It's taken some time to drag Mr Moore to this position. He's compromised the position of the Premier and the position of his colleagues by the slow decision-making that he's engaged in."

Mr Moore says in recent days he had considered quitting the Cabinet but that would have been too great a sacrifice.

The Premier, Colin Barnett, said on Tuesday that he would prefer it if Mrs Moore did not own shares in BHP Billiton and Woodside.

But Mr Moore says the Premier was supportive of his position and at no stage demanded the shares be sold.