



Carpenter, Logan not called to gas inquiry

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Former premier Alan Carpenter and his energy minister Fran Logan are set to escape scrutiny in a Senate inquiry into the State government's response to the catastrophic gas crisis which wiped out a third of WA's supply.

The pair have not been included a draft list, obtained by *The West Australian*, which outlines who will give evidence at two Perth hearings to be held tomorrow and Friday.

The list will be finalised this morning, but subcommittee chairman Doug Cameron, a former high-profile unionist, said he would not invite them to attend.

WA Liberal Senator Mathias Cormann accused the committee of protecting the former Labor government from revealing what it knew about the Varanus Island explosion that slashed gas supplies to WA industry and consumers.

"This is essentially a Labor Party controlled committee and it's disappointing they are using their majority to perpetuate the cover-up," Senator Cormann said.

Senator Cameron said Mr Carpenter and Mr Logan should be allowed to decide whether they wanted to volunteer evidence, but denied the inquiry would be a whitewash with-

out their involvement.

"If people come along and put their submission, that's what the inquiry will use to determine its view — the people who come along. We will be extremely flexible in terms of who wants to come along. We will be very happy to listen to everyone," Senator Cameron said.

The terms of reference for the Senate inquiry are to look at the economic impact of the gas crisis and the government's response to it, including the adequacy of its crisis management and the justification for its refusal to publicly release some relevant facts and documents.

Three people from the State Government's Office of Energy and one from the Department of Industry and Resources will give evidence at the hearings.

Prime Laundry general manager Robert Dube said Mr Logan should face questions over why he allowed Alinta to distribute gas in a daily lottery which favoured some businesses over others.

A spokesman for Mr Carpenter said the former premier had not been invited to the hearings but would not comment further.

Mr Logan did not respond to calls.