

**RESIDENTIAL PARKS (LONG-STAY TENANTS) ACT 2006 — STATUTORY REVIEW —
DISCUSSION PAPER**

Statement by Minister for Commerce

HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan — Minister for Commerce) [10.02 am]: I am pleased to present the consultation discussion paper for the statutory review of the Residential Parks (Long-stay Tenants) Act 2006. In tabling the discussion paper I wish to acknowledge the assistance of the Park Home Owners Association WA Incorporated, the Caravan Industry Association WA and the Council on the Ageing, WA. The input provided by these key stakeholders has been vital in ensuring the discussion paper reflects issues of concern to both residents and industry.

The government recognises that with so many people choosing to live in residential parks and lifestyle villages as an affordable housing option, it is important to ensure that the legislation is providing adequate protections. Concerns have been raised about whether the current laws adequately address issues such as security of tenure, excessive rent increases and the difficulties faced by residents when these parks are closed or sold. These concerns have prompted the government to give the review a high priority by commencing the process some six months early.

A comprehensive communication strategy will shortly be implemented by the Department of Commerce with the goal of maximising input to the review. The outcome of the review will guide the government's future policy direction in respect of tenancy arrangements applying in residential parks. For this reason I strongly encourage interested parties to voice their opinions by making submissions to the review. With an estimated 15 000 to 20 000 people choosing to live in residential parks, the government recognises that it is important to ensure that the legislation provides adequate protections for residents whilst at the same time maintaining a viable private sector residential parks industry. I now table a copy of the discussion paper for the information of members.

[See paper 4847.]