

GAS APPLIANCE RECTIFICATION PROGRAM

3800. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich to the Minister for Commerce

I refer to the Gas Appliance Rectification Program administered by the Department of Commerce, and I ask —

- (1) What are the safety risks that testing, referred to on the Department of Commerce website showed?
- (2) Are the safety risks such that severe injury or death could be caused from continued use of broader specification gas in a gas appliance, that has not been replaced or serviced?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) The assessment of broader specification gas identified that there is the potential that some pre 1980 domestic natural gas appliances may not perform as well as they should on this gas. The safety risks referred to on the Energy Safety website relating to the pre 1980 gas appliance performance gas include:
  - a. Flame instability that can lead to extinguishment of the flame and uncontrolled release of gas on appliances without flame monitoring systems. It is estimated that 1,500 of these appliances exist and they have been prioritised for early replacement.
  - b. Ignition difficulties resulting in a delay in lighting. These difficulties can be rectified by adjusting the pilot flame.
- (2) The safety risks associated with the continued use of broader spectrum gas in pre 1980 appliances is considered highly unlikely to result in death or injury. However risks have been identified, it is appropriate to replace or service the appliances prior to the introduction of the broader spectrum gas in early 2013.