

**Division 16: Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety — Service 3, Commerce —**

Ms M.M. Quirk, Chair.

Dr J. Krishnan, Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Commerce.

Mr R. Sellers, Director General.

Mr J. Kwong, Chief Financial Officer.

Mr S. Abdoolakhan, Acting Deputy Director General, Industry Regulation and Consumer Protection.

Ms P. Blake, Executive Director, Consumer Protection.

[Witnesses introduced.]

**The CHAIR:** The estimates committees will be reported by Hansard and the daily proof will be available online as soon as possible within two business days. I will allow as many questions as possible. Questions and answers should be short and to the point. Consideration is restricted to items for which a vote of money is proposed in the consolidated account. Questions must relate to a page number, item or amount related to the current division, and members should preface their questions with those details. Some divisions are the responsibility of more than one minister. Ministers shall be examined only in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.

A minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee. I will ask the minister to clearly indicate what information they agree to provide and will then allocate a reference number. Supplementary information should be provided to the principal clerk by noon on Friday, 31 May 2024. If a minister suggests that a matter be put on notice, members should use the online questions on notice system to submit their questions.

I give the call to the member for Roe.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** My first question is on the first line item, “Approvals Reform—Cross-Government Triage Team”, under the headings “Spending Changes” and “New Initiatives” on page 234. Can the parliamentary secretary outline what the cross-government triage team is and what is its purpose?

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** Thank you for the question, member. Unfortunately, that is not part of this portfolio. I will get the director general to expand.

**The CHAIR:** For our information, whose portfolio is it?

**Mr R. Sellers:** We dealt with it in Minister Michael’s session under the environmental regulation part of the portfolio.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I will try something else. I refer to the short-term rental accommodation incentive scheme on page 234 under the heading “New Initiatives”. There is no money for this scheme after this financial year. Will the scheme be non-existent in the next financial year?

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** I request Ms Blake to answer the question.

**Ms P. Blake:** Thank you, parliamentary secretary, and chair. Yes, this is a finite-funded initiative. It is funded for the current financial year 2023–24 and into 2024–25.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** How many renters at this point in time have taken up this scheme?

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** Thank you for the question, member. We have received a total of 306 applications, and 172 payments have been made. The total number of properties added to the long-term market is 172.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Thank you, parliamentary secretary. How many renters does the parliamentary secretary expect to access this scheme by the end of the funding?

**The CHAIR:** How long is a piece of string, really?

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** It is very difficult to assess the exact number of people who will be on the scheme. It has worked so far. Every additional property that has been put on the market is a bonus for people. The government has taken up multiple initiatives to ease the rental market. We are seeing some short-term results in the initial stages and we hope things will improve. I will get Ms Blake to expand further on this.

**Ms P. Blake:** At the moment, the scheme will run through until November this year. We anticipate having between 250 and 300 by that stage and then it will be a question for government about what we will do with that scheme.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Thank you.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** I refer to page 234 of budget paper No 2, volume 1. My question is around the election commitment for the building and construction consultative committee that is listed under “Other” in the table of spending changes. The line item for the consultative committee allocates \$250 000 this year and for each of the out years. What is the purpose of that committee?

[9.00 pm]

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** I thank the member for his question, but this relates to the industrial relations portfolio, not commerce.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** How can a committee made up of all the builders in the state, who are talking about getting procurement and building underway, be industrial relations?

**The CHAIR:** Given that it is another portfolio, I think that should almost be rhetorical, member.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** I am not certain how it could be in another portfolio.

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** This is across a portfolio budget involving industrial relations and the Department of Finance when it comes to procurement. I will get the deputy director general to explain further on this.

**Mr S. Abdoolakhan:** As the parliamentary secretary said, this matter sits in the industrial relations portfolio. It is not within the commerce portfolio. The member's question about the procurement side of things relates to something outside the portfolio. My understanding is that the Department of Finance and other departments were actively involved in the process for that committee, but it does not sit within the commerce portfolio.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** Further to that, the committee can understand our frustration. The member for Central Wheatbelt asked about the new procurement processes in the previous section and was told that there was nothing in the budget for it, yet here we find that very procedure being mentioned in what we thought was the commerce area, but now find it is in yet another area. One would think, on the face of it, that a procurement committee dealing with contractors would either be in the commerce or finance area, not in industrial relations. This is very confusing.

**The CHAIR:** Member, I am not sure, in relation to finance, that they were specifically asked about the building and construction consultative committee. Finance did say that they were the procurement gurus, or words to that effect, so I am not quite sure why there is an issue now.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** My point was that the parliamentary secretary said that there were no expenditures connected to that announcement and yet we see that there is four years of investment for that very matter in the department, if not in that particular portfolio. He does sit in both camps.

**The CHAIR:** Yes, I know that, member. I am pretty feeble-minded on occasions, but I do not remember specific questions about that particular committee, and the member has not been here the whole time. Frankly, it is rhetorical since it is in a different division. Next question.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** Okay. We will move on as best as we can given the confusion that seems to exist.

**Mr S.A. MILLMAN:** Only on your part. Everyone else knows what is going on.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** I do not believe so. I think we have done our best to actually ask about this system and in both cases, we have not been given an answer.

**The CHAIR:** All right. There is always questions on notice.

**Mr S.A. MILLMAN:** You have done your best and come up short.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** I do not need advice from a retiring member.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Point of order, Madam Speaker.

**The CHAIR:** Thank you very much. Let us move on. New question.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I will ask a new question. Page 234 refers to the line item "Vacant Property Rental Incentive Scheme", which we see has a \$5 million allocation in the 2024–25 budget year. Once again, is there a plan for this to be available only in the forthcoming year?

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** The vacant property rental incentive scheme is similar to the short-term rental incentive scheme, but it specifically targets vacant properties. This initiative targets those properties that have been vacant for at least six months to offer them on the long-term rental market for a minimum 12 months' lease. Owners can receive a \$5 000 grant if the property meets the conditions. The reason that this incentive grant is \$5 000 and the short-term incentive grant is \$10 000 is that the short-term rental incentive needs to account for the fact that the properties are already earning an income as short-term rentals. The \$5 000 offered in the vacant properties scheme is designed to cover the cost of getting a house prepared and listed on the market. The short-term incentive grant is also budgeted for this year and can be reviewed at the end of the year.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** How many landowners have taken up this financial incentive at this time?

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** We have so far received 46 applications and they are all currently under assessment. As I said before, every property available for rent on the market is contributing to easing the pressure on the rental market. The government is taking multiple initiatives to ease the pressure, and this is one of the initiatives.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** How many landowners does the parliamentary secretary expect to take up the offer?

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** It is very hard to say because there is a difference in having a property vacant. The incentive now is to do the necessary works like repairing the lawns, doing a little bit of renovation, and getting the property ready for the rental market, which many people who are expected to make the decision would not have wanted to do. It is very hard to predict what the numbers are going to be, but I will request Ms Blake to explain further.

**The CHAIR:** Ms Blake.

**Ms P. Blake:** Thank you, parliamentary secretary. An allocation has been calculated on 1 000 grants being made, and \$5 000 per tenancy gives us \$5 million.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I assume, if the parliamentary secretary could confirm it, that should the full 1 000 grants for this program not be taken up, the government will carry it forward to the following financial year to fill out the \$5 million. Would that be the parliamentary secretary's anticipation?

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** It will be the policy that is decided at the end of the uptake as to how good and effective the entire process has been.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** Page 240 refers to the service area of Industry Regulation and Consumer Protection, and the role of the department in the building, building surveying, electrical, gas, painting, and plumbing industries. Something that has been raised a number of times with me in the past, parliamentary secretary, is the fact that plumbers coming into the state wanting to get professional qualifications recognised in Western Australia have to travel to Brisbane to undertake a process of qualification because there is nowhere in Western Australia that does it. I do not know whether this has been solved in very recent times but I was told that not that long ago. Has that situation been resolved or is that still the situation now?

[9.10 pm]

**The CHAIR:** I suspect that the accreditation might be another portfolio, but we will wait and see. It is in the pipeline, member.

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** I can confirm that there are training organisations that provide that service, but sometimes there is no steady flow of that particular skill set moving into the state, and the demand for that service is not there. On those rare occasions, they are not able to provide the service and people are having to travel.

**The CHAIR:** Perhaps you can confirm: is that your portfolio, parliamentary secretary?

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** Yes.

**The CHAIR:** It is! Fire away.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** Thank goodness; we found out what they do!

I will move on with the description there of building and building surveying.

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** What is the page number?

**The CHAIR:** It is the same one. It is page 240.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** We are on the same page; it is the same service provision area on page 240.

**The CHAIR:** Industry regulation and consumer protection.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** Yes, under the heading "Industry Regulation and Consumer Protection". In relation to both those matters, the process of introducing compulsory building inspections for residential buildings has been discussed. Could the parliamentary secretary outline to me whether the government plans to develop compulsory building inspections for residential builds; and, if so, when might that be introduced?

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** I kept a briefing note. There has been a lot of pressure on the construction industry as such, and there have been delays. Building a home is a significant event for every Western Australian, and delays cause immense stress on top of whatever other stress they go through. It is not the government's intention to introduce mandatory inspections in a rapid fashion. There is a plan to implement in a phased manner. The WA government has been progressing the implementation of the recommendations of the national *Building confidence* report to build confidence and improve the effectiveness of compliance and enforcement systems for the building and construction industry across Western Australia.

Stage 1 of the implementation is engineer registration. The first stage of the review considered the registration of building discipline engineers. In July 2022, following extensive industry consultation, the government announced the establishment of a statutory registration scheme for building discipline engineers and the necessary amendments to regulations were made in June 2023. The registration scheme will commence on 1 July 2024 for structural and fire safety building engineers, with registrations becoming mandatory from 1 July 2026. The registration scheme will commence on 1 July 2025 for civil and mechanical building engineers, with registrations becoming mandatory

from 1 July 2027. The government committed funding in the budget to meet the anticipated costs of implementing and enforcing the registration scheme.

Stage 2 is building controls. The second stage of the review focused on regulatory control measures spanning the entire construction process, targeted at ensuring greater compliance with building standards and improving outcomes for building owners and occupants. Extensive industry consultation has been undertaken, and in December 2023, cabinet endorsed a suite of reforms detailed in the *Decision regulatory impact statement: Building better: Reforms to WA's building regulatory framework*. The most significant of this suite of reforms is the establishment of requirements for inspections to be carried out at key stages during the construction process. These requirements will apply to non-residential buildings such as office buildings, shopping centres, hospitals, schools and apartment buildings in the first instance. With respect to apartment buildings, inspection requirements will first apply to medium to high-rise buildings greater than three storeys before being extended to low-rise buildings three storeys or fewer. Further extension of inspection requirements to houses will be considered in the future once the current proposed requirements have been implemented and their effectiveness evaluated. Other reforms detailed in the *Better building DRIS* include increasing minimum design and variation documentation requirements, mandating greater independence of building surveyors, announcing regulator powers and satisfying builder registration requirements. The Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety is working with the Parliamentary Counsel's Office to draft a bill to amend the existing laws to give effect to these reforms. A consultation draft of the bill will be released for public comment. The government is aiming for the consultation draft to be released in the second half of 2024. Once the bill is finalised, it will be possible for DEMIRS to closely estimate the associated implementation timeframe.

Stage 3—the last stage—is fire safety practitioner and building designer registration. The third stage of the review will consider the establishment of statutory registration schemes for fire safety practitioners and building designers. Options to be considered will look to complement existing registration schemes—for example, the electrical and plumbing trade registration schemes in relation to fire safety practitioners and the architect registration scheme in relation to building designers. DEMIRS is currently developing consultation strategies and associated materials for these reviews. A submission seeking the minister's approval to commence the review of the fire safety practitioners was provided to the minister's office in April 2024. A submission seeking the minister's approval to commence the review for building designers is expected to be provided to the minister in the second half of 2024.

In summary, we acknowledge the national *Building confidence* report. We acknowledge that changes have to be implemented. We also acknowledge that the construction industry is under a lot of strain, and we cannot bring drastic changes that will put further strain on the industry and cause more problems with the completion of houses. As I mentioned earlier, building a home is a significant event in a person's life, and we do not want to add stress to that by implementing drastic policies. That is why it is staged to start with four-storey or higher commercial buildings, and then three storeys and lower, and finally coming to single-storey buildings. It will be a phased-manner implementation and it will be done.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** Does the parliamentary secretary have any idea of the number of inspectors that will need to be recruited and trained to fully implement the final stages of that program? Perhaps along the way the parliamentary secretary can give an indication of the different stages.

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** Can I please direct the deputy director general to answer that question.

**Mr S. Abdoolakhan:** Thank you, parliamentary secretary. As the member mentioned, we are taking a phased approach. Firstly, we will look at multistorey, high-rise buildings, and how many people we will need to do the work. We have done some modelling. The inspections that we are proposing will not be done by inspectors engaged by the department. We are looking at having the capacity in the sector. I think a question was asked about the number of building surveyors needed to do the work. I think it is widely acknowledged that if we were to put the whole burden of inspections on the number of building surveyors we currently have in WA, which is around 5 000, we would not be able to do the work. That is why we are taking a phased implementation approach, ensuring that we have capacity in the sector and bringing engineers under that same umbrella. Although building surveyors will be the main people who will be signing off on documents, under our legislation, we will be able to delegate some inspection work to engineers with specialist skills to do the work. If it is a structural matter, it will be a structural engineer and for fire, it will be the fire engineer. The whole strategy of a phased approach is to bring more capacity to the sector, not to put an extra burden on building surveyors and expect them to give a source of truth or knowledge or expect these on everything; hence, building engineers being the first cab off the rank.

[9.20 pm]

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** In order to enable coverage throughout the whole state, would the parliamentary secretary consider involving inspectors in local governments around the state to assist in areas that do not have a volume of work that would warrant an inspector being stationed in the local area full time? Would that be envisaged?

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** I can definitely assure the member that all that has been taken into consideration in the capacity planning to make sure that the entirety of WA is covered and we are not putting additional strain on the construction industry as such. I will ask the deputy director general to expand further on that.

**Mr S. Abdoolakhan:** Thank you, parliamentary secretary. That is 100 per cent. The system of approval for buildings relies on local government being actively involved in the process. There are two different pathways. There is one pathway with private certification whereby approval is done by a private building surveyor, but in regional areas, mostly local government is involved doing the work, so the plan is to share that work with all the parties involved. We are the closest in the shire; we know more about the vagaries, if you like, of a specific issue of that particular shire. We know better. The plan is to involve them in that whole process definitely.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** Has any modelling been done on the cost impact on each of the builds from the new regime that is to be introduced?

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** Extensive modelling has been done on a cost–benefit analysis to the community that clearly indicates that once the policies have been implemented and mandatory inspections are in place, that is a cost saving to the community compared with not maintaining those standards.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** I am obliged for the answer, but in terms of each individual build, has the parliamentary secretary any idea what it might add to the cost of the build?

**The CHAIR:** With respect, I think that is not specific enough, because you could be talking about a 23-storey building or a four-storey building. You would expect the extension cost would be —

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** Okay, I will rephrase that. On a single residential development, could the parliamentary secretary give me an idea of what the new regime when fully implemented might add to the cost of the build?

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** We are not just taking costs into consideration. As we said, the modelling was done based on cost–benefit analysis. The benefit to the end consumer on a single-storey building is definitely positive with implementation of the policy. I would like the deputy director general to expand on that.

**Mr S. Abdoolakhan:** Thank you, parliamentary secretary. Member, two volumes of the *Decision Regulatory Impact Statement* were published—volumes 1 and 2. Volume 2 has a very detailed cost–benefit analysis undertaken by a private party. I do not have all the figures at the tip of my fingers, but they are all in the public domain. All the different cost implications of inspections, engaging engineers and everything has been factored into it and there are different line items. I do not have them handy, but they are all in the public domain. Regarding what the parliamentary secretary mentioned earlier, we have looked at all the costs and benefits and seen where the cost benefit stacks up over the life of a building, with a net benefit to implementing all this reform, as long as it is done in a staged manner and everything is not front loaded in the first stage of implementation.

**The CHAIR:** I have a further question on this, parliamentary secretary. I was told a few years ago—the situation might have changed—that one can call oneself a fire safety practitioner in Western Australia and there were no standards or accreditation available in Western Australia. Has that situation changed and is there an accrediting body?

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** I request the deputy director general to answer.

**Mr S. Abdoolakhan:** The third stage of our review, which the parliamentary secretary mentioned earlier, we will always review. It is not as loose as some people have said. Training schemes are available, but there is no registration scheme for fire safety practitioners as we stand. The registration scheme is currently loose. We do not prescribe a different type of fire safety designer, which engineer registration will capture. The next step of a review is looking at the registration of fire safety installers, because there are plumbers who can do some fire safety work and there are electricians who design and are competent. We want to put some rigour in the process. That is why we are initiating a holistic review of the fire safety practitioner side of things in the next stage of a reform.

**The CHAIR:** Is that seen as a priority? When is it anticipated that the fire safety inspection regime will be completed?

**Mr S. Abdoolakhan:** It is not about the inspection of work. Inspection of an electrical component of a fire installation is already happening through building and electrical inspectors. It is about putting more rigour into the registration of people who are designing the work and plumbers who specialise in doing the plumbing side of fire safety installations.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I refer to page 235 and paragraph 4 about the Short-Term Rental Accommodation Act 2024 and the STRA registration scheme, as it is known on the opposite page. I understand that the register and the legislation has only just come in, but I am concerned about where the funding will go. On the opposite page is the line item “STRA Registration Scheme”, starting at \$1.5 million in the forthcoming year and down to around \$900 000 a year after that. Is that registration scheme going to be maintained by a central register or partially by local governments?

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** The act requires all premises that fall within the scope of the definition of short-term rental accommodation to be registered. If a property is not registered, the accommodation provider will not be permitted

to advertise or enter into a short-term rental arrangement. The short-term rental accommodation registration scheme was expected to commence from 1 July 2024, with a six-month transition period until registration becomes mandatory from 1 January 2025.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I am trying to get to whether the register will be held and controlled at the Department of Commerce rather than in some spread of local governments or the like.

[9.30 pm]

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** My understanding is that it will be centrally managed by the Department of Commerce. I will get Ms Blake to further expand on that.

**Ms P. Blake:** Yes, it will be a central register that is managed by the Consumer Protection division within the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I refer to paragraph 8 on page 235 of budget paper No 2 on the forthcoming prohibition on the use of engineered stone. It states, in part —

WorkSafe has significant activity underway, including national discussions on implementing the ban, stakeholder briefings, regulatory changes for engineered stone and other silica-containing products.

Can the parliamentary secretary tell me what that significant activity is? What will happen to the businesses that were producing that engineered stone? What is the plan for them?

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** This question needs to be directed to the industrial relations minister, Minister McGurk. I understand that this question was asked this morning and was answered in detail.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Wrong place.

**The CHAIR:** You will have to find your slab somewhere else.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I will start a new question. I refer to the heading “Protecting Workers and Supporting Consumers” on page 235 of budget paper No 2. Paragraph 9 relates to the agricultural industry. How many inspectors will be hired specifically for the agricultural industry in relation to this?

**The CHAIR:** Is that your portfolio, parliamentary secretary?

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** No, chair; sorry.

**The CHAIR:** Just stick to the script; it might be better!

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** I went through the list and took both of them out.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Okay. He never gave it to me.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** I did!

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** There has been a breakdown in the chain!

**Mr S.A. MILLMAN:** Division in the ranks.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** It is all right; we will move on.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** We are a small and well-oiled machine.

**The CHAIR:** It is helping with the stats.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Let us move on to page 235 of budget paper No 2 and paragraph 5 on labour hire changes. I am sure that one is in the right section.

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** No; sorry, member.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** No good? No problem.

**The CHAIR:** Maybe government members might have a Dorothy Dixier.

**Mr S.A. MILLMAN:** Sorry; I was doing something else.

**The CHAIR:** Member for Moore, I have one if you want any.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** I just want to take up the situation with industry regulation and consumer protection regarding payment disputes.

**The CHAIR:** Sorry, where are we looking?

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** It is on the same page that I was on before. I am referring to the heading “Industry Regulation and Consumer Protection” on page 240 of budget paper No 2. Has there been any development in terms of the resolution that might be available to consumers with regard to home indemnity insurance if they are involved in a situation

in which their builder has not actually gone to the wall but has just not shown up and they cannot get their house completed? I know that people faced a lot of different scenarios over the very difficult period when so many builders were going under. Has there been some smoothing of the path for people to be able to access insurance and get on with their build in another way if the builder is simply not doing the build, rather than perhaps having actually gone into bankruptcy?

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** I thank the member for his question. The current balance of the home indemnity insurance account as of 2 May 2024 was \$45.9 million. Between 1 June and 26 April 2024, 1 956 claims were made. Of those, 277 have been settled at greater than \$100 000. These 277 consumers would all have been left with significant losses if the government had not increased the maximum cover available to home owners. Since the maximum payout amount was doubled, as of 22 April 2024, 117 claims had been settled in which consumers suffered losses in excess of the \$200 000 limit. The total amount of losses incurred by these consumers was \$10 million.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I refer to paragraph 1 on page 234 of budget paper No 2 and the reform of the Residential Tenancies Act 1987. Can the parliamentary secretary enlighten us on whether the Commissioner for Consumer Protection will be required to make a few new determinations in relation to bond disputes and, of course, pets and minor modifications as per the legislation? Is there an allowance for an increase in FTE for the Commissioner for Consumer Protection?

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** I thank the member for his question. An amount of \$8.9 million over the budgeted forward years will be invested for the implementation of commissioner’s determination and dispute resolution functions on commencement of the Residential Tenancies Amendment Act 2024. It includes 12 FTE on an ongoing basis.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Within what timeframe will those new FTEs be scaled into the department, given that this is fresh legislation that has gone through?

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** It is estimated that 12 FTE will be employed in the 2024–25 financial year and continue in the forward years.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** I am going to be adventurous and see whether I have the right area. I refer to paragraph 2 under the key government reforms on page 234. I assume that this is the area in which we are seeing some changes in the Ombudsman’s area in dealing with the energy disputes et cetera. Are they related to service area 3 of this division as well; and, if so, how do they intersect?

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** Sorry, chair; this is a question for the Minister for Energy, not the Minister for Commerce.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** Okay.

**The CHAIR:** Do not buy a lotto ticket this week, member.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** I was just wondering because it is also to do with the faults, which could also be private contractors, but that is fine.

**The CHAIR:** While opposition members are thinking about whether they have any more questions, I have a quick one, parliamentary secretary. At both pages 235 and 240, there is the heading “Protecting Workers and Supporting Consumers”. Although there is no reference in the budget papers, I want to ask about the second tranche of the Retirement Villages Act. It comes within this portfolio; it is akin to the short-term rental accommodation legislation and the residential tenancies legislation. The Department of Commerce has done multiple consultation papers. At what stage can we anticipate some legislation?

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** I ask Ms Blake to answer.

**Ms P. Blake:** Thank you, parliamentary secretary. A consultation draft of the bill has been shared with key stakeholders. We anticipate a bill being introduced into Parliament in the second half of this year.

**The CHAIR:** Thank you very much. Any other questions, members? No; that is it.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** The white flag is up.

**The CHAIR:** The white flag is up. Thank you, parliamentary secretary, and thank you, advisers.

**The appropriation was recommended.**

*Committee adjourned at 9.40 pm*