

ELECTRONIC CONVEYANCING — PROPERTY EXCHANGE AUSTRALIA LIMITED

653. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Planning:

My question is to the Minister for Planning; Lands.

I first wish to acknowledge Mrs Kirsty Pratt in the gallery today on behalf of victims of child sexual abuse, who are waiting for the government to fulfil its commitment to them.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Treasurer, I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I refer the minister to her government's decision to mandate the use of electronic conveyancing. Can the minister confirm that the state government has a 12 per cent share in Property Exchange Australia Limited, with majority ownership by the major banks; that it is intending to provide monopoly rights for electronic conveyancing to PEXA; and that the government has no ability to regulate the price that PEXA charges, at the expense of Western Australian homebuyers?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for that question. The previous government made the decision on electronic conveyancing. The previous government set up the PEXA deal. This is its deal. This was its decision. I do not know where members opposite were around that cabinet table, but obviously they had no awareness of any decision that they took. This is their process. PEXA is their creation; it is not our creation. I have sought advice on this. This is the creation of the previous government, and this is its decision.