

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION — FOURTEENTH REPORT — “INQUIRY INTO  
THE JURISDICTION AND OPERATION OF THE STATE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL”**

*Government Response — Statement by Parliamentary Secretary*

**HON MICHAEL MISCHIN (North Metropolitan — Parliamentary Secretary)** [3.44 pm]: I draw the attention of the house to the state government’s formal response to the fourteenth report by the Standing Committee on Legislation titled “Inquiry into the Jurisdiction and Operation of the State Administrative Tribunal”. Members are aware that the inquiry into the tribunal was referred to the standing committee in June 2007. The report of the committee was tabled in the Legislative Council on 20 May 2009 and contained 60 recommendations and 25 findings. The government supports 36 of the recommendations and all of the presented findings. Two recommendations are no longer relevant due to legislative amendments, and the remaining recommendations are subject to review or further consideration.

Of the committee’s comments, I am pleased to highlight that the majority of the findings show the tribunal to be operating in a satisfactory and effective manner in meeting its objectives. This was confirmed in the committee’s concluding statement, which noted —

The Committee found the SAT to be operating efficiently and effectively and was of the view that this positive result has been due to the considerable efforts and dedication of the members and staff of the SAT.

I reiterate the comments of the committee and express the government’s gratitude to the judiciary and the members and staff of the tribunal for their past and continuing efforts. I also thank the committee for its efforts in the preparation and release of the fourteenth report. The committee members—Hon Ken Baston, MLC, chairman; Hon Giz Watson, MLC, deputy chair; Hon Graham Giffard, MLC; Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm, MLC; Hon Sally Talbot, MLC; and Hon George Cash, MLC—undertook a comprehensive consultative process, and the subsequent effort in preparing the committee’s final report is acknowledged and greatly appreciated. This appreciation is extended to the committee staff—Ms Denise Wong, Mr Mark Warner and Ms Kerry-Jayne Braat—for their contribution during the inquiry and for their assistance during the response process.

In relation to specific recommendations, I am also particularly pleased to highlight recommendation 50, which confers the jurisdiction of the Building Disputes Tribunal to the State Administrative Tribunal. This has been the subject of regular consultation between the Department of the Attorney General and the Department of Commerce. The government response was coordinated by the Department of the Attorney General and is consistent with the department’s purpose of providing high-quality, accessible services to the Western Australian community. The response also supports the tribunal’s continued focus on providing the state with a service that meets national tribunal best practice in a fair, timely and affordable manner. In particular, the response supports the standing committee’s efforts to provide the foundation for further improvements to what is a highly successful justice model.

I now table the government response to the fourteenth report by the Standing Committee on Legislation titled “Inquiry into the Jurisdiction and Operation of the State Administrative Tribunal”.

[See paper 1198.]

Consideration of the statement made an order of the day for the next sitting, on motion by **Hon Jock Ferguson**.