

COMMERCE — HOME CONSTRUCTION DELAYS

1536. Hon Steve Martin to the Minister for Commerce:

I refer to an answer from the Minister for Commerce to question without notice 689 asked on 20 June 2023, and I ask:

- (a) How many additional staff have been allocated to “manage the timely processing of building complaints in the building and energy division of the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety”;
- (b) What is the average wait time for answers to complaints in the building and energy division of the DMIRS for:
  - (i) 2023;
  - (ii) 2022; and
  - (iii) 2021;
- (c) Which projects were “smoothed” to free up skilled labour;
- (d) How many applications for work has the \$1.5 million overseas marketing campaign attracted; and
- (e) How many of the \$2000 construction apprentice completion grants have been awarded?

**Hon Sue Ellery replied:**

- (a)–(b) Please refer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 818.
- (c) Project timing adjustments (“smoothing”) and management of the schedule of tenders remains an important lever to support the building and construction industry and is undertaken regularly and to varying degrees for approximately 2000 State Government projects.

Ongoing review of the Asset Investment Program pipeline of works ensures the timing of project tenders is aligned with the construction industry’s capacity to deliver. This work ensures consideration is given to the capacity of contractors to put forward competitive, value for money bids for government projects.

- (d)–(e) These questions should be referred to the Minister for Training.