



MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES;  
THE MIDWEST, WHEATBELT AND GREAT SOUTHERN  
LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL



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Hon Adele Farina MLC  
Chair Standing Committee on  
Uniform Legislation and General Purposes  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000

Attention: Ms Mia Betjeman, Clerk Assistant

Dear Chair

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE STANDING  
COMMITTEE ON UNIFORM LEGISLATION AND GENERAL PURPOSES IN  
RELATION TO UNIFORM LEGISLATION AND SUPPORTING  
DOCUMENTATION**

I refer to the Report of the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and General Purposes in Relation to Uniform Legislation and Supporting Documentation ("the Report") tabled by the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and General Purposes ("the Committee") on 27 August 2004.

The Government notes that the Committee is of the view that although the contents of the Report will provide guidance as to the information it may reasonably require in scrutinising uniform legislation, it is preferable that the Government also reinforces such requirements. The Committee expressed the view that a Government department's or agency's understanding of the process that affects the passage of uniform legislation would be enhanced if the Premier issued a Premier's Circular on the subject. To this end, a recommended Premier's Circular was annexed to the Committee's report.

The Government notes that the Premier's Circular recommended by the Committee is directed principally at Ministers. Premier's Circulars are, however, typically directed to the Public Sector rather than to Ministers. Therefore, the Premier will issue a Circular to all Ministers, requesting them to ensure that the Committee is provided with the relevant information, as identified in the Report, upon the introduction into the Legislative Council of a uniform bill. The Circular to Ministers will reiterate the functions of the Committee and the information that it reasonably requires upon the introduction of a uniform Bill in order to perform those functions effectively and efficiently. A copy of the Circular will be provided for the Committee's information.

To further help ensure that Public Sector agencies are aware of the process for the passage of uniform legislation and the information required by the Committee when reviewing a uniform bill, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet will amend its Parliamentary Services Guidelines and Procedures, to include reference to these matters. This is consistent with recommendations 2 and 3 of the Committee's Report.

The Government is confident that these initiatives will have a significant and positive impact on the Committee's ability to effectively perform its rôle in understanding and scrutinising uniform legislation on behalf of the Legislative Council.



Hon Kim Chance MLC

LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

- 5 JAN 2005