

Division 45: Western Australian Land Information Authority, \$37 899 000 —

Mr S.J. Price, Chair.

Ms R. Saffioti, Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Lands.

Mr G. Dewar, Chief Finance Officer.

Mr B. Roberts, General Manager, Registration Services.

Ms T. Scully, General Manager, Location Services.

Mr G. Goldfinch, General Manager, Valuation Services.

Mr B. Hennessey, Acting Chief of Staff, Minister for Local Government.

Mr E. Carmody, Senior Policy Adviser.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIR: The estimates committees will be reported by Hansard. The daily proof *Hansard* will be available online as soon as possible within two business days. The chair 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 these details. Some divisions are the responsibility of more than one minister. Ministers shall only be examined 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 close of business Friday, 3 June 2022. If a minister suggests that a matter be put on notice, members should use the online questions on notice system.

We are dealing with division 45, Western Australian Land Information Authority, Landgate. I give the call to the member for Roe.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to page 760 and the table under “Access to Location Information”. The full-time equivalent employees are listed on the second last line in that table. I refer also to the consistent funding provided to the agency and the increase in FTEs from 16 in 2021–22 to 31 in this year’s budget. Why is there a difference between the budget and the actual for last year? Why have we seen such an increase, from 16 to 31? It has nearly doubled.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It seems to me that there is a big increase this year from 16 to 29. I will just find out why that is the case. We may need to provide the explanation of the increase in FTE by way of supplementary information. Is that okay?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Yes, thank you.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: We are providing by way of supplementary information an explanation of the increase in FTE from 16 in 2021–22 to 31 in 2022–23.

[*Supplementary Information No B4.*]

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: On page 756, the fifth paragraph outlines the number of external global and domestic challenges. Obviously, further to that, it points out the heated market with labour shortages and the demand for construction materials et cetera. When is Landgate or the WA Land Information Authority predicting the property market activity to slow?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Landgate is not a forecaster of economic activity, but I can say that there has been a significant increase in the number of documents lodged. From 2019–20 to 2020–21, there was a 39 per cent increase in documents lodged. There has also been another increase in 2021–22. I do not think Landgate is a forecaster of economic activity; its document activity more symbolises what is happening in the market, rather than forecasting what happens in the market.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: As has been pointed out, once the activity does slow, there will be a decrease in revenue from the service fee payments, document registrations and the like. Will there be a decrease in FTE if and when that does take place? It will happen at some stage.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It is sort of a hypothetical situation. It is a bit of speculation. To quote Ross Lyon, I do not deal with hypotheticals! Anyway, all of our careers end in tears. That is my sort of view of life! I cannot speculate on that. I think that Landgate undertakes significant services, with not only the documents lodged, but also the valuations and other information it shares with industry. I think that will continue to be quite robust for a long time yet.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Thanks, minister. With the Transfer of Land Amendment Bill coming through the pipeline, I note the comment in the budget papers that if it passes the Legislative Council without amendment, which I imagine it probably will, it will ensure a smooth transition. Further to that, does the minister foresee any changes to the

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Chair; Mr Peter Rundle; Ms Rita Saffioti

department, given the smooth transition to the electronic lodgements and the like? Will that have any effect on the FTE count as well?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I think the impact on FTEs has primarily already been felt in relation to not only the commercialisation of some activity, but also the movement to e-conveyancing. Most of that has already been felt across Landgate, so that impact has already been absorbed.

The appropriation was recommended.