

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, STATE PURCHASING REQUIREMENTS

Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Minister for Housing and Works:

I refer to the comment by the Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure in the other House yesterday that contracts in perpetuity do not comply with state purchasing requirements. Will the minister's plan to replace contracts in perpetuity with contracts for 25 years comply with state purchasing requirements, or will the 25-year contracts require some form of exemption from state purchasing requirements?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

The State Supply Commission's open and effective competition policy states that the calling of public tenders may be waived when the State Supply Commission determines that an exceptional circumstance exists that warrants the waiving of the tender process. I believe the plan of the Department for Planning and Infrastructure is a tentative plan, rather than something that is firm or finalised. I am advised that any plan to replace contracts in perpetuity with, for example, contracts for 20 to 25 years could comply with state purchasing requirements.