

RENTAL TENANCY LAWS

852. Hon WILSON TUCKER to the Minister for Commerce:

I have a question, which is entirely without notice, for the Minister for Commerce. There is a national cabinet meeting tomorrow, which I am sure the minister is keenly aware of, and housing and rental tenancy laws are on the agenda.

- (1) Could the minister give this house an idea of what aspects of rental tenancy laws she would like to see agreed to at the national cabinet meeting?
- (2) Is the minister open to listening to the position of the majority of the other states and territories that have scrapped no-grounds evictions?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(2) A couple of things. Firstly, the national cabinet decision is that they hope to reach a decision on an agreed position by the end of the year. The meeting that is being held this week I do not believe will finalise the work that is going to be done on housing and on addressing rental reforms. The other point to make is that each state makes its decision based on the circumstances faced in each state. I understand the arguments for scrapping no-fault evictions, because I had to think about this and consider all the views very carefully. I met on numerous occasions with the Make Renting Fair campaign, and separately to it as a campaign team, I met with the individual organisations as well, including Shelter WA, Anglicare and all those organisations to consider how we get the balance right.

The decision that we made contained a range of measures to assist current renters, but this government has made no secret that the problem we face is with supply. The real question is, and I provided this answer to an earlier question today: to what extent do we put pressure on those people who might be making a decision about whether they invest in a long-term versus a short-term rental property; and do we create a situation whereby that decision is influenced by how much power they have to make decisions about their own investment property? As I said earlier today, we erred conservatively on the side of not wanting to take a further risk to supply. Two pieces of work are ongoing. One is the second tranche of the review into the Residential Tenancies Act. That work is underway. The second is the work that is being done by national cabinet. I expect that national cabinet will say something about housing matters out of this week's meeting, but the decision to address more broadly renters' rights is a piece of work that national cabinet has committed to complete by the end of the year.