

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

2014-15 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Building Commission

Hon Alanna Clohesy asked:

1. In February of this year when asked when the discussion paper that proposes changes to improve the regulation of the painting industry be released to the industry the Minister advised that the report would be released when it was 'appropriate to do so'.
 - a) Has the report been released?
 - b) If not. When will it be appropriate to do so and what is the reason for the delay?

The discussion paper relating to the reform of the regulation of the painting industry will be released in the first half of 2016. Work on the reforms has been impacted by the need to assign available resources to higher competing policy priorities.

2. The Building Commission 2013 survey of painters highlighted a lack of painting inspectors as being a key issue for the industry. There were three painting inspectors in 2013 and in February this year the Minister advised that there was only one painting inspector employed by the Building Commission in Western Australia.
 - a) How many painting inspectors are working for the building commission now?
 - b) What was the rationale for the reduction in painting inspectors?
 - a) One
 - b) Based on an analysis of all complaints received and investigated, one painting inspector meets the needs of the Building Commission. Disciplinary matters and statutory breaches are managed by a team of 10 investigators who will seek the expert advice of the painting inspector when required.

Of the 868 Home Building Work Complaints (HBWC) received, 32 related to painting in 2013/14. Of the 92 disciplinary matters received in 2013/14, five related to painters. Of the 127 statutory investigations received in 2013/14, 39 related to painting.

Of the 964 HBWCs received in 2014/15, 25 related to painting. Of the 84 disciplinary matters received in 2014/15, two related to painters. Of the 175 statutory investigations received in 2014/15, 39 related to painting.

3. A consultation paper was released in February 2015 titled "Basic Plumbing Repairs in Remote Aboriginal Communities" and submissions to the paper closed on Friday 17 April 2015.
 - a) Has the government made a decision on the proposals contained in the discussion paper?
 - b) How many submissions were received?

- c) How many of the submissions expressed concerns with the government's proposed changes?
 - d) Has the Government published a Decision Regulatory Impact Statement?
 - e) If the Government has not issued a response yet, why has it not?
 - f) When can Industry expect a response?
- a) The government has carefully explored all of the available options in the light of the comments received during the public consultation process and is currently assessing the relative merits of each option in accordance with the government's regulatory gatekeeping requirements.
 - b) 26
 - c) Of the 26 submissions received, 13 were from the plumbing industry, seven from the health industry, two from Aboriginal Corporations and four from other stakeholders including training providers. All submissions from the plumbing industry raised issues with the proposal outlined in the discussion paper while submissions from the health industry and Aboriginal Corporations were broadly supportive.
 - d) No
 - e) The Decision Regulatory Impact Statement will be published once the assessment referred to in a) has been completed.
 - f) Early in 2016.
4. What was the number of painting workmanship complaints received from regional Western Australia and how many complaints progressed in the following periods:
- a) 2014-2015
 - b) 2014-2013
 - c) 2012-2013

Prior to March 2015, the Complaints and Licensing System database did not have the facility to record and report complaints relative to their geographical locations.

Between 1 March 2015 and 17 December 2015, 25 complaints about painting work have been received of which five were from regional Western Australia. Of the five regional complaints, all five were accepted, three had building remedy orders issued and two are ongoing.

5. How many Painter Registration renewals were received in 2015 and what is the expected revenue for these renewals?
- a) 2014-2015
 - b) 2013-2014
 - c) 2012-2013

Due to the complexity of preparing a response, this information will be provided to the Committee by Monday 29 February 2016.

6. From 1 Jan 2015 to 30 June 2015 and from 1 July 2015 to date how many complaints were referred for investigation and how many were concluded by Painting Inspectors for:
- a) Building Services Complaints
 - b) Disciplinary Complaints

- c) Statutory Investigations
- d) General Inspections

- a) Building Services Complaints:
 - 1 January 2015 - 30 June 2015: the painting inspector completed 16 inspections and associated reports and conducted one desktop review.
 - 1 July 2015 – 31 December 2015: the painting inspector completed 10 inspections and associated reports and conducted one desktop review.
- b) Disciplinary Complaints:
 - 1 January 2015 – 30 June 2015: the painting inspector completed one inspection report in connection with a disciplinary/statutory matter.
 - 1 July 2015 – 31 December 2015: the painting inspector completed eight inspection reports in connection with disciplinary/statutory matters.
- c) Statutory Investigations:
 - Data is not maintained in a way that distinguishes between a disciplinary complaint or a statutory investigation.
- d) General Inspections:
 - 1 January 2015 – 30 June 2015: the painting inspector carried out 62 general inspections of painting work, 22 inspections at the request of painters and received 137 telephone enquiries.
 - 1 July 2015 – 31 December 2015: the painting inspector carried out 135 general inspections of painting work, 19 inspections at the request of painters and received 223 telephone inquiries.

