



ECONOMICS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Members present:

Mr LP Power MP (Chair)
Mr DJ Brown MP
Mr ST O'Connor MP
Mr DG Purdie MP
Ms KE Richards MP
Mr RA Stevens MP (via teleconference)

Staff present:

Ms L Manderson (Acting Committee Secretary)
Ms L Pretty (Acting Inquiry Secretary)

PUBLIC BRIEFING—EXAMINATION OF THE ELECTORAL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2019

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

MONDAY, 13 MAY 2019

Brisbane

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The committee met at 10.12 am.

CHAIR: Good morning. I declare open this public briefing of the Economics and Governance Committee's examination of the Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I want to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet. My name is Linus Power, the member for Logan and chair of the committee. Other committee members today are Mr Ray Stevens, the member for Mermaid Beach and the deputy chair, who is on the phone; Sam O'Connor, the member for Bonney; Kim Richards, the member for Redlands; Don Brown, who is participating as a substitute member for Nikki Boyd; and Dan Purdie, the member for Ninderry, who will be joining us shortly.

On 1 May 2019 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, the Hon. Yvette D'Ath, introduced the Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 into the Legislative Assembly. The bill was referred to this committee for examination, with a reporting date of 21 June 2019. The purpose of this morning's briefing is to assist the committee in its examination of the bill. The briefing is a proceeding of the Queensland parliament and is subject to the standing rules and orders of the parliament. It is being recorded and broadcast live on the parliament's website. Media may be present and will be subject to my direction. The media rules are available from committee staff if required. All those present today should note that it is possible you may be filmed or photographed during the proceedings and images may also appear on the parliament's website or social media pages.

Only the committee and invited officials may participate in the proceedings. Any person may be excluded from the briefing at my discretion or by order of the committee. I remind committee members that officers appearing today are here to provide factual or technical information. Any questions about the government or opposition policy should be directed to the responsible minister or shadow minister or left to debate on the floor of the House.

ROBERTSON, Mrs Leanne, Assistant Director-General, Strategic Policy and Legal Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

TUBOLEC, Ms Melinda, Senior Legal Officer, Strategic Policy and Legal Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

CHAIR: We will now hear from representatives from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Good morning to both of you. I invite you to make an opening statement on the bill, after which committee members will have some questions for you. I imagine that your statement is relatively brief given the detail of the bill because members are keen to ask questions. Thank you very much.

Mrs Robertson: Thank you, Chair. We thank the committee for the opportunity to brief the committee on the bill. As the committee will be aware, the local government elections held on 19 March 2016 precipitated two independent reports—the independent panel's report titled *Inquiry report: a review of the conduct of the 2016 local government elections, the referendum and the Toowoomba South by-election* and the Crime and Corruption Commission's report titled *Operation Belcarra: a blueprint for integrity and addressing corruption risk in local government*.

In October 2016 the independent panel was appointed to undertake the inquiry into the conduct by the Electoral Commission of the 2016 local government elections, the referendum on fixed four-year terms and the by-election for the state seat of Toowoomba South. The review was completed in March 2017 and on 15 June 2017 the independent panel's report was tabled in parliament alongside the government's response. The independent panel's report made 74 recommendations concerning the conduct of both state and local government elections, a number of which were of a policy and legislative nature. Some of these recommendations relate to improved processes for postal voting and others relating to amendments to the Electoral Act and the Local Government Electoral Act to achieve greater consistency.

The government's response to these recommendations was that it would undertake a comprehensive review of early voting processes and the other recommendations of a policy and legislative nature directed to government and progress any amendments ahead of the inaugural Brisbane

four-year fixed parliamentary term in October 2020 and the next local government elections in March 2020. Additionally, as the committee is aware, in October 2017 the CCC published the Belcarra report which made 31 recommendations for change to reduce the risk of corruption and to improve equity, transparency, integrity and accountability in local government elections and decision-making. The Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 1 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2018 received assent on 21 May 2018. The act introduced a ban on political donations from property developers for both local and state governments and various reforms concerning the declaration and management of councillors' conflicts of interest. The stage 1 bill implemented recommendations 20 and 23 to 26 of the Belcarra report.

The bill before the committee has four main objectives. Firstly, the bill aims to improve the integrity, transparency and public accountability of state elections by implementing the further legislative stage of the government's response to certain recommendations of the CCC in its Belcarra report. Secondly, the bill facilitates operational improvements and supports efficiencies in the state electoral system by implementing the government's response to the independent panel's report. Thirdly, the bill ensures that the provisions of the Electoral Act and related legislation reflect the adoption of four-year fixed parliamentary terms in Queensland. The bill's final objective is to improve consistency across the electoral system, including better alignment between state and local government elections and referendum, and to make other minor improvements.

Turning to those aspects of the bill dealing with integrity, transparency and accountability issues, the bill expands the ECQ's statutory functions to include administering and promoting compliance with the election funding and financial disclosure provisions of the Electoral Act and the corresponding provisions of the Local Government Electoral Act. This will implement in part recommendation 31 of the Belcarra report. The bill contains amendments which place an obligation on donors to notify a recipient of the true source of a gift, implementing recommendation 6 of the Belcarra report. The bill amends and introduces new offences and penalty provisions within the Electoral Act to improve consistency with the Local Government Electoral Act and the Referendums Act and support compliance consistent with recommendation 30 of the Belcarra report. Finally, the period over which funding and disclosure prosecutions can be brought will be increased under the bill from three years to four years from the commission of the offence, and that is consistent with recommendation 29 of the Belcarra report. Those are aspects of the bill that deal with operational improvements and efficiencies.

The bill contains amendments which empower the ECQ rather than the Governor in Council to appoint returning officers and assistant returning officers, and that is consistent with the approach under the Local Government Electoral Act and also recommendation 4 of the independent panel's report. The bill moves the deadline for postal vote applications, requiring them to be submitted for the ECQ no longer than 12 days prior to the election—that is, by 7 pm on the Monday two weeks prior to polling day. This amendment is as a consequence of changes to the frequency and reliability of postal services and will ensure that postal ballots can realistically be delivered to voters prior to polling day. This amendment takes into account recommendations 41, 42, 43 and item 13 of recommendation 74 of the independent panel's report.

The bill clarifies that preliminary processing of declaration envelopes for postal votes can commence before polling day and allows such ballot papers to be included in the preliminary count. This allows the ECQ to better disperse its workload over the election period and allows the election result to be determined sooner. This takes into account recommendation 61 and item 11 of recommendation 74 of the independent panel's report. The ECQ will be able to issue replacement ballot papers on polling day if they are spoilt and replace lost or spoilt postal ballot papers accompanied by a declaration by the elector. This amendment accords with item 2 of recommendation 74 of the independent panel's report. The bill will also remove the requirement for polling booths, prepoll centres and mobile polling booths to be notified in the *Gazette*. Instead, the bill will allow booths and centres to be notified on the ECQ website and as considered appropriate by the ECQ. This reflects item 3 of recommendation 74 of the independent panel's report.

Candidates will be able to make their nomination payments by cash, cheque or electronic payment methods under the bill. This amendment aims to minimise transaction costs and the risk of fraud while also achieving procedural efficiencies consistent with item 9 of recommendation 74 of the independent panel's report. The bill will also vary the time frame for the retention of election papers from four years to one year and the time frame for the retention of financial records from three years to five years to reflect items 4 and 5 of recommendation 74 of the independent panel's report.

The bill abolishes the requirement for each ballot paper to be attached to a butt that has a unique number for the electoral district. This proposal will reduce excess printing costs and reflect that this current requirement provides no real security advantage, in line with item 12 of

recommendation 74 of the independent panel's report. Further, the bill will enable absentee voters to be marked off the electoral roll at the polling booth and issued with an ordinary vote in order to make voting faster and easier for absentee voters and achieve efficiencies for the ECQ. This will implement item 14 of recommendation 74 of the panel's report.

The bill also includes amendments to complement the adoption of four-year terms. The bill ensures that provisions of the Electoral Act and other legislation reflect the adoption of four-year fixed parliamentary terms in Queensland. The bill amends the Electoral Act, the Acts Interpretation Act and the Parliament of Queensland Act to align with changes made by the Constitution (Fixed Term Parliament) Amendment Act 2015. Some of these changes are based on the Electoral (Constitutional) Amendment Bill 2015, which lapsed with the calling of the last general state election.

Further, the time frames around electoral redistributions are varied under the bill to reflect four-year fixed terms and to provide that a redistribution does not affect a by-election before the Legislative Assembly is next dissolved or expired. The disclosure periods applying to the candidates are also amended to reflect the move to four-year fixed terms. Further, given that four-year fixed terms create certainty around the timing of ordinary general elections, the bill gives discretion for the Speaker of the House or the Governor to not fill a vacancy in the Legislative Assembly in the last three months before dissolution day.

Finally, the bill aims to improve consistency across the electoral system and make other minor improvements. The bill will align Queensland's position on prisoner voting with the Commonwealth position following the High Court decision in Roach against the Electoral Commission 2007 High Court decision. The bill provides for the online publication of all returns, consistent with ECQ practice, with the safeguard that certain information can be withheld for privacy or other reasons by way of regulation.

The bill will require the ECQ to publish election information in relation to first preference votes and the distribution of preferences and provide electoral information to a registered political party or Independent member on request for a purpose related to an election, and this particular amendment is consistent with the electoral legislation in New South Wales, Victoria and the Commonwealth. Prescribed entities receiving electoral roll information for a prescribed purpose will be empowered to use that information for the prescribed purpose.

The bill will enable the returning officer to temporarily suspend polling at a polling booth for up to four hours in the case of an emergency that will temporarily interrupt or obstruct the taking of the poll, including a serious threat of a riot or open violence or a serious risk to the health and safety of persons at the polling booth or other emergency. The bill will also similarly expand the types of emergencies for which a poll may be adjourned. Finally, the bill makes various amendments to the Referendums Act to align it with the Electoral Act. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide information to the committee and we are happy to take questions.

CHAIR: Thank you, Mrs Robertson, for your comprehensive opening statement.

Mr STEVENS: My question is to Leanne. First of all, I have a suggestion and then two questions. The suggestion is in relation to your explanation through your briefing paper on clause 59 on recommendation 6. As we read it, it says that the entity must make a gift or loan to the first recipient. The first recipient and another person makes it an ultimate gift to the ultimate recipient. The first gift will enable the first recipient to make the ultimate gift. It sounds like a Bud Abbott and Lou Costello 'who's on second, what's on third'. It would make a lot more sense and be easier to comprehend if the threshold amount of \$1,000 was given to the ultimate recipient who is a registered political party, candidate or third party and that gives a segue into understanding. I know what you are trying to do in terms of identifying where the original source of the donation came from, but the ultimate recipient is obviously the political party or the candidate running for the election. That was my suggestion. In relation to all of these matters—in other words, clause 55 and the investment and enforcement of that, the 7½ years redistribution rather than the current nine-year redistribution—what extra funding will be needed or allocated for these changes?

CHAIR: Is that specifically in terms of redistribution or are you—

Mr STEVENS: In terms of all of the changes that this bill will bring about, what is the allocated funding for it?

Mrs Robertson: All I can say is that the budget resources for the ECQ are a matter for the normal budget process.

Mr STEVENS: Sorry, but I missed the answer there, Mr Chairman.

CHAIR: The answer was that funding for the ECQ is through the normal budgeted processes.

Mr STEVENS: I understand that, but there will have to be a government allocation to cover those sorts of matters and there would be an estimate by the department of what it would cost so that the ECQ can get that money.

CHAIR: He is putting that as a question, Mrs Robertson.

Mrs Robertson: Chair, I am not in a position where I can in fact give any further information, except to say that funding is dealt with as part of the normal budget process.

Mr STEVENS: I missed the answer there again, I am sorry.

Mrs Robertson: Basically the funding for the ECQ is a matter for the government's normal budget process and I am not in a position to provide any further information.

Mr STEVENS: In terms of normal legislation that goes through the parliament, there is always an estimate, if you like, of the funding required as a result of the changes by that legislation. I know this is with regard to the ECQ, but the ECQ is not putting this legislation through. The department is and the department would have an idea, I am sure, of costing or would have done some work of what some legislation would cost.

Mrs Robertson: Chair, all I can do is refer members of the committee to the explanatory notes which accompanied the bill on its introduction, and they state—

The State Government will incur an additional cost in the implementation of the measures contained in the Bill. Funding for the ECQ to administer these measures will be determined through normal budgetary processes.

I am not in a position to provide any other details.

Mr STEVENS: Okay. We will move on from that. The department officers do not have the funding details. That is what I am hearing.

Mrs Robertson: No. The department officers are not in a position to provide any funding information. I would have to take any requests for funding information on notice.

Mr STEVENS: So funding information should be on notice? Mr Chairman, I would ask that we put that question on notice.

Mrs Robertson: Can I clarify? I do not know what information we will be able to provide.

CHAIR: Certainly. If there is any further information that the department can provide, it has been asked that it be put on notice. We will note that question from the deputy chair.

Ms RICHARDS: Thank you for the presentation. With regard to the ECQ being able to provide electoral information, clause 47 of the bill provides that ECQ must, upon request, provide a registered political party or an independent member with elector information. What is the rationale for providing access to this information?

Ms Tubolec: The information requested under that clause is in relation to how a voter elected, so it is not the actual votes cast; the secrecy of the ballot is still maintained. It provides information about the polling location, the booth that they used and whether they used postal voting or telephone voting. Essentially it was a policy decision of government to facilitate this, noting that it is consistent with information that is already provided in relation to Commonwealth elections as well as in New South Wales and Victoria. This information would already be available about Queenslanders who vote in Commonwealth elections; they would already have this information available and it is now being extended to state elections and how they voted in that way. The information obviously is accompanied by an offence provision to make sure that the information is not misused and that it is only used in relation to the election. Obviously it would be a benefit to the recipients of that information; it can help communication with the electors so it can help them to decide who to vote for.

Mr O'CONNOR: Compared to the information that members are provided currently, the extra information will be how they voted in terms of whether it was postal or in person and where they voted?

Ms Tubolec: Correct. Currently they are only provided with the roll information—so electors' names and addresses and so on. This extra information will make available whether they use pre-poll, which polling booth they attended, whether they used telephone voting and so on. It is not automatically given by ECQ, but it will be given on request by any of the named requesters.

Mr O'CONNOR: That will be prospective, for the next state election? That will be data available post the next state election, not currently available?

Ms Tubolec: It will be information that is already available, but obviously it needs to wait for proclamation for the actual provision to commence.

Mr O'CONNOR: It will be data provided from the 2017 state election once proclamation—

Ms Tubolec: Just bear with me. I will just check the transitional provision for that one. I might need to take that one on notice if you do not mind. There is no specific transitional—I do recall we did cover that during the drafting. If you do not mind—

Mr O'CONNOR: ECQ would have the data already, would they?

Ms Tubolec: Their systems do capture it. We did check with them that they do have that capability in there. They do not currently have the reporting capability to do that. They obviously are going through significant changes at the moment—changing their computer systems that are able to produce these reports. In part one of the measures in implementing this bill would be to obviously amend their IT systems so that they can produce these reports. As far as I am aware from the consultations with ECQ they do have that information recorded in their systems.

Mr O'CONNOR: You will take that on notice—

Ms Tubolec: Yes.

Mr O'CONNOR:—whether the data will be available prior to the next state election from the previous state election or post the next state election?

Ms Tubolec: Yes.

Mr O'CONNOR: In relation to prisoner voting, that was in response to a High Court decision from 2007. I was wondering why it has taken so long to get here and whether you have any estimate of the number of new electors that this will add to the roll—prisoners serving less than three years.

Ms Tubolec: As to the question why it has taken so long since Roach, I can obviously say it is a policy matter for government. As to whether we have any data of numbers, there has been no such undertaking, no research done by the department and we do not have those figures available.

Mr O'CONNOR: We could not take that on notice, either? Would it be difficult to determine how many?

Mrs Robertson: Realistically, that is probably going to be challenging because it is going to depend on the situation come election day.

Ms Tubolec: That is quite a dynamic.

Mr STEVENS: I have a further question on that particular matter. In relation to the matter that some prisoners can vote and some prisoners cannot due to the High Court decision on three-year terms being the cut-off, perhaps the department officers can advise: is it reflective of the crimes that have been committed? In other words, there are those crimes for drug use, robbery or assault with sentences under three years, whereas murderers, rapists and paedophiles with sentences over three years are not allowed to vote. Can the department advise how that number was reached? As we see, other states have longer terms of exemption, if you like—South Australia and ACT. The other important thing for me on that is how secure is postal voting to a single-address prison? In other words, they all get their postal votes and someone might look over their shoulder as they open their letters, et cetera. It could well be that some pressure or influence is given at the prisons. I am not aware of how a prisoner gets their mail.

CHAIR: We might start with the first part of the question, which was—

Mr STEVENS: The three-year determination.

CHAIR: How do we arrange the three-year determination regarding Roach v the Commonwealth?

Ms Tubolec: The three-year cut-off was essentially decided to first of all mirror the Commonwealth. Because we use a joint roll arrangement with the Commonwealth, they already have processes in place to annotate the roll. There is information that is already provided from corrections on a monthly basis to annotate the roll to note who is in prison. Obviously, we wanted to take advantage of that given we use the joint roll arrangement. The other reason—

CHAIR: There would be an expense if we went through and made a separate roll annotation to the roll that was not in line with the Commonwealth's?

Ms Tubolec: Yes. The ECQ does have ability to annotate against the roll; it is my understanding that they can. However, in this particular matter they would be relying on the Commonwealth roll with the annotation as it is passed down.

CHAIR: The second part of the question I believe was about postal votes and the ability of the individual voter to take the vote by themselves.

Ms Tubolec: Corrective Services already facilitate postal voting for persons who are in remand on polling day but not actually sentenced because they are eligible to vote at the moment. What we are doing now is simply extending the category of persons who are eligible. The numbers will obviously be a bit higher because of those persons actually serving a sentence of imprisonment of less than three years. Those questions are already there and Corrective Services are very prudent in ensuring that they follow the law. There are obviously strict requirements in the Electoral Act to ensure the secrecy of the vote. We have every assurance in QCS in terms of being able to continue that with an increased class of voters who are able to do it.

CHAIR: Those prisoners presumably will have voted in this federal election that we are holding at the moment?

Ms Tubolec: Absolutely. That is right.

Mr PURDIE: Mrs Robertson, sorry I was a bit late and I missed the first part of your briefing. It was very informative and quite detailed. I notice you went through all of the clauses and you identified the item number from the independent report and the recommendation from Belcarra and what they related to. I am wondering how many clauses in this bill—and I am sorry if you spoke about this before I got here—are outside of that or are in addition to the item numbers and the recommendations from Belcarra?

Ms Tubolec: If you do not mind, I can answer that question. If we are just excluding Belcarra—and there are significant numbers that are beyond that—I can give you a brief summary of the measures rather than the actual clause numbers.

Mr PURDIE: Perfect.

Ms Tubolec: That is the information I have here. If you need anything more specific than that—

Mr PURDIE: That is fine. Thank you.

Ms Tubolec: There is obviously a big batch in relation to the independent inquiry report. Would you like me to go through those separately or are they okay in a batch?

Mr PURDIE: As long as it is not too onerous on you. Is there a big spreadsheet there?

Ms Tubolec: I do have a list that I will go through. With the independent inquiry report, there is the amendment so that the returning officers and assistant returning officers are now appointed by the ECQ, instead of the Governor in Council. There is a consequential amendment with that to say that if a returning officer is a member of a political party they need to notify the commission and then they will be terminated.

The amendment that changes the deadline for postal ballots is changing the cut-off deadline to 12 days before polling day. There is the amendment to allow declaration envelopes to be preliminarily processed before polling day. There are some tidy ups in relation to lost and spoilt ballot papers to align, taking into account the Soorley recommendation in relation to lost postal ballot papers as well, and the removal of the additional declaration paper that is needed.

There is an amendment to remove the requirement for the ECQ to notify particular information in the *Gazette* and instead recommend that that is not necessary anymore and not necessarily the way that consumers access information, so they can predominantly notify on their website and use any other advertising materials that they need. There is the amendment to change the storage period for ballot and election papers, so that they only need to be stored by the ECQ for 12 months, unless obviously there is any court proceeding underway or if there is a research project that needs them.

There is the change to the period over which financial records are to be kept. Again, that is to align in a similar way to the amendment to local government. They have a five-year storage period. Ours is slightly different because of the way that offences appear in our act. We have five years from the date of the record, instead of five years from the election. There is an increase in the period over which prosecutions for offences can be brought and that has been extended from three years to four years.

There is an amendment to expand the ways that nomination payments can be made, to include electronic funds transfer. There is the removal of the requirement for each ballot paper to be attached to a butt with a unique serial number.

Mr PURDIE: Excuse me, Ms Tubolec, would it be easier for me to get a copy of this document, rather than you recite it?

CHAIR: I am not sure what the line of questioning is. As we went through in the last one, it is quite standard that bills take—

Mr PURDIE: I was more looking at hers and I missed the opening part of the briefing. As Sam asked, the prisoner voting and some of those bigger items or clauses in the bill that might have been an extension to recommendations from Belcarra or the independent report.

CHAIR: This is the Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I will put the question: is it standard that when there is, for instance, a constitutional decision that, at the first opportunity when electoral and other legislation is moved, the government, if they have a policy response to it, puts that response in to that type of bill?

Mrs Robertson: Chair, obviously the timing of any of those sorts of amendments are a matter of policy for the government, but, yes, it is not unusual for a bill to include other amendments unrelated to, for example, in this case, Belcarra. That is not unusual.

CHAIR: It is relatively transparent which ones are part of recommendations and which ones are not. You may wish it to go onto the record and to get a response, but this is something normal that happens as part of government. I do not really know what you are asking for.

Mr PURDIE: I appreciate that, Mr Chair. I am not suggesting otherwise. For my own information, I am wondering if you could point me to those amendments. It is not necessarily the finer amendments, but some of the bigger ones.

Mrs Robertson: Chair, we could probably provide not this document, which is used for our briefing purposes, but some sort of information about the breakup, if that would assist the committee.

CHAIR: The suggestion is that we put the question on notice and note that it is the part of the Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill not related to Belcarra—put as a question on notice. That way the committee knows that that is transparent.

Mr PURDIE: Thank you, Mr Chair.

Mr BROWN: In regard to the changes to the 12 days before polling day, the postal vote application and also the changes to processing those postal votes, did the independent report say how that would reduce the time it takes for seats to be declared? I note that the member for Mermaid Beach and I had our seats declared after 5 pm on the Friday two weeks after. We did not have overly complicated preference flows and candidate numbers. Are you able to say how beneficial it will be in regards to timing and declarations?

Ms Tubolec: Is your question in relation to the cut-off for postal votes being received and counted or is it in relation to—

Mr BROWN: The 12-day timeline and also being able to process those two changes. In practice, how will that benefit declaration timing?

Ms Tubolec: There are quite a few measures in the bill that will help to have the election result finalised sooner. Mostly it is going to be the preliminary processing and the absent voting change. One of the biggest operational changes for the ECQ will be allowing absent voters to cast an ordinary vote. That means that obviously those electors who are not voting in their own electoral district do not have to queue up separately. They will just join the normal queue. They will be marked off the roll, receive a normal ballot for their own district and put that in the poll. The preliminary processing process actually take a fair bit of time. As much as we can get that done beforehand, it will mean that the election result is available sooner.

In the same way, with the preliminary processing of postal votes received we are clarifying that that can be done at any time before polling day—not on polling day, but before polling day—so that all the ballots are already taken out of the declaration envelopes and are sitting in a ballot box to be counted in the preliminary count. You will notice that section 127 of the Electoral Act is being amended, so all those extra ballot papers that will now be available will be in the preliminary count and it will be much more reliable. That means obviously that less work is done in the final count, in those last 10 days waiting for postal ballots to come in.

As far as the actual 12-day cut-off and whether that will help, obviously having an earlier cut-off time means that voters will ideally take the initiative to register to automatically receive the postal ballot as soon as the election is announced, which means that hopefully they will return their completed ballot papers sooner, as well. That means that everything gets processed sooner.

Mr BROWN: Is an education process around the new cut-off time for postal votes going to be implemented by the ECQ to help people identify the new cut-off?

Mrs Robertson: We understand that the ECQ is intending to do a communication strategy, yes.

CHAIR: There being no further questions, I thank you for the information you have given us here today.

Mrs Robertson: Chair, after the hearing could we clarify with the secretariat the questions that we have taken on notice? We will do it after the hearing, if you are comfortable with that, Chair.

CHAIR: Yes. That concludes the briefing. Thank you for the information provided today. Thank you especially to our Hansard reporters. The transcript for the proceedings will be available on the committee's website in due course. The responses to questions taken on notice will be required by 5 pm on Monday, 20 May 2019. The secretariat has taken notes on the exact detail of the questions to be taken on notice. With that, I declare this public briefing closed.

The committee adjourned at 10.49 am.