



TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present:

Mr CG Whiting MP—Acting Chair
Mr JR Martin MP (virtual)
Mr LL Millar MP
Mr LA Walker MP (virtual)
Mr PT Weir MP

Staff present:

Ms D Jeffrey—Committee Secretary (virtual)
Mr R Hansen—Committee Secretary
Mr Z Dadic—Assistant Committee Secretary

PUBLIC BRIEFING—INQUIRY INTO THE BUILDING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

FRIDAY, 8 APRIL 2022

Brisbane

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The committee met at 9.15 am.

ACTING CHAIR: Good morning. I declare open this public briefing for the committee's inquiry into the Building and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. My name is Chris Whiting, member for Bancroft, and I am the substitute committee chair for today's hearings. I respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today and pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging. We are fortunate to live in a country with two of the oldest continuing cultures in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples whose lands, winds and waters we all share. With me today are: Lachlan Millar, member for Gregory and deputy chair; James Martin, member for Stretton, via videoconference; Les Walker, member for Mundingburra, also via videoconference; Pat Weir, member for Condamine; and the member for Toowoomba North is an apology for today's proceedings.

This briefing is a proceeding of the Queensland parliament and is subject to the parliament's standing rules and orders. Only the committee and invited witnesses may participate in the proceedings. Witnesses are not required to give evidence under oath or affirmation but I remind witnesses that intentionally misleading the committee is a serious offence. I also remind members of the public that they may be excluded from the briefing at the discretion of the committee. I remind committee members that officers are here to provide factual or technical information. Any questions seeking an opinion about policy should be directed to the minister or left to debate on the floor of the House.

These proceedings are being recorded and broadcast live on the parliament's website. Media may be present and are subject to the committee's media rules and the chair's directions at all times. You may be filmed or photographed during the proceedings and images may also appear on the parliament's website or social media pages. Please turn your mobile phones off or on to silent mode.

BARRON, Ms Ainslie, Acting Assistant Director-General, Building Policy, Department of Energy and Public Works

CASSIDY, Mr Richard, Strategic Advisor, Queensland Building and Construction Commission

HILL, Dr Michelle, Acting Executive Director, Building Policy, Department of Energy and Public Works

NEUENDORF, Ms Anne, Acting Executive Director, Building Policy, Department of Energy and Public Works

ACTING CHAIR: I now welcome representatives from the Department of Energy and Public Works and a representative from the Building and Construction Commission who have been invited to brief the committee on the bill. I invite someone to make an opening statement, after which committee members will have some questions for you.

Ms Barron: I would also like to begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging. My name is Ainslie Barron, Acting Assistant Director-General, Department of Energy and Public Works. I am joined today by Dr Michelle Hill and Ms Anne Neuendorf from the Department, as well as Mr Richard Cassidy, Strategic Advisor from the Queensland Building and Construction Commission. The Commissioner has asked us to pass on her apologies, as she is unwell.

The Building and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 proposes to amend several building related acts: the Architects Act, the Building Act 1975, the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017, the Planning Act 2016, the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018, the Professional Engineers Act 2002 and the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991. Overall, the bill aims to continue building on the reforms already implemented under the Queensland Building Plan 2017 and its update in 2021 to create a safer, fairer and more sustainable building and construction industry. The amendments in the bill are essentially grouped into three themes. These relate to: building efficiency; an efficient and transparent regulatory framework; and minor technical amendments.

In relation to building efficiency, turning first to the ‘ban the banners’ amendments, the bill fixes the uncertainty around the application of the ‘ban the banners’ provisions which are there to protect home owners from developer covenants that seek to restrict where solar panels can be placed on the roof of a home. While Queensland is leading the way with approximately one in three homes having rooftop solar compared to one in four homes nationally, these amendments can support more Queenslanders to install solar energy systems and do so, importantly, with certainty.

In relation to the expanded use of greywater, the amendments in the bill facilitate the use of treated greywater in cooling towers for air-conditioning that serve large building developments. The amendment will also allow treated water to be used for other purposes, including for flushing toilets, while ensuring that public health outcomes are maintained through appropriate regulatory oversight. Factors such as population growth, which increases demand on existing water supplies, climate change, the recognition of the need for more sustainable buildings and increased demand for green-star commercial developments require more responsible and innovative ways to use resources such as water. These amendments demonstrate proactive consideration of these issues.

In relation to holding tanks for sewage and greywater, the bill will enable, under a permit which is issued by a local government, an owner of a premises to discharge untreated wastewater and water from a toilet or soil fixture, such as sewage or greywater or both types of waste, directly into a sealed holding tank for collection and disposal offsite. For holding tanks installed in sewer areas, it is proposed that such a permit would state the period for which the holding tank could be used for the discharge and disposal of untreated matter. The option to discharge under a permit issued by the local government untreated matter directly into a holding tank would deliver safe, practical and cost-effective solutions for temporary premises such as toilets on construction sites.

In relation to a more efficient and transparent regulatory framework, the bill also contains several amendments. In relation to head contractor licensing, members would know that a QBCC licence is generally required to carry out building work; however, the QBCC Act provides some exemptions to this general requirement, including for unlicensed head contractors to subcontract work to appropriately licensed subcontractors provided the work is not residential construction work or domestic building work. Earlier amendments were introduced in 2020 to repeal this head contractor licensing exemption in response to industry concerns. These concerns have also been explored further in subsequent consultation. As a result, the bill seeks to replace this not-yet-commenced provision and retain the licensing exemption as well as introduce a regulation-making power to require certain head contractors to obtain a licence in specific circumstances.

The bill also ensures then that subcontractors are protected by a project or retention trust account when the exemption is used. The amendments will allow a regulation to be made that will specify additional contracts and subcontracts that require a retention trust account. Broad industry consultation is planned when developing this regulation. In relation to sharing information on investigation outcomes, the bill also clarifies that the QBCC commissioner may share the outcomes of an investigation undertaken by the QBCC with the complainant, similar to other government agencies including local governments. Currently, a complainant must lodge a right to information application to receive further information about their complaint. This amendment will ensure that the QBCC is able to appropriately respond to complainants regarding the outcome of their complaint.

In relation to decision-making, for example combustible cladding checklist offences, the bill includes minor operational amendments that will enable the QBCC to commence court proceedings for breach of the combustible cladding checklist process. Currently, local governments have the power to enforce these provisions; however, as the administrator of the checklist and industry regulator QBCC is considered better placed to take enforcement action for these breaches.

In relation to immediate suspension of a QBCC licence, the bill expands QBCC’s powers to immediately suspend a licence if there is the potential for serious harm or financial loss to a person. Existing provisions already allow the QBCC to immediately suspend a licence if there is the potential for serious harm to other licensees, employees of other licensees, consumers and suppliers to building materials or services. The amendment will enable the QBCC to immediately respond to risks of serious financial loss or other serious harm to any person to ensure that it has the appropriate regulatory mechanisms to also protect members of the public.

In relation to security of payment, the amendments introduce a regulation-making head of power to prescribe a fee for providing retention trust training. The training is currently provided by QBCC free of charge but it will be subject to an evaluation after full implementation of the framework. Should the training need to become more complex, it may be necessary for the QBCC to charge the trainee a cost recovery fee. The head of power provides for this flexibility should it be required in the future.

The bill also includes minor amendments to the BIF Act to clarify and refine the ambit of the account review report requirements and expectations on the auditing profession under the BIF Act, including reporting of non-compliance to the QBCC. Minor amendments of the Building Act complemented by amendments of the QBCC Act addressed inconsistencies that exist in both the Building Act and the QBCC Act in relation to review rights for decisions made by QBCC in terms of pool safety matters. The amendments will allow a person who is dissatisfied with the decision made by the QBCC about a pool safety management plan under the Building Act to apply for an internal or external review of the decision under the QBCC Act. Review rights for decisions by QBCC about other pool safety matters are already available under the QBCC Act.

The bill will amend the Planning Act to clarify and expand provisions in that act to deal with appeals against decisions to give enforcement notices under the Plumbing and Drainage Act. The proposed amendments will ensure the Planning Act adequately provides for appeals against decisions to give enforcement notices under the Plumbing and Drainage Act as well as decisions to give enforcement notices under the Planning Act. The bill will also amend the Planning Act to ensure a person who is dissatisfied with the failure of any decision-maker, other than the QBCC, to make a decision within the period required under the Building Act to be able to appeal against that failure to make a decision.

Finally, in relation to minor technical amendments, there are amendments to the Architects Act and Professional Engineers Act, for example, minor, primarily technical amendments aim to clarify and improve the operation of some existing provisions to reflect the digital age as well as current operational business and drafting practices. As the committee would be aware, these acts establish boards to regulate architects and registered professional engineers and their work in Queensland. Minor amendments include ensuring board policies are published online, clarifying when the board's offices must remain open to the public, and providing the same civil immunity protections to board employees as their public servant counterparts in those offices.

In relation to repeal of Building Act provisions not yet commenced, provisions introduced in 2020 were intended to encourage former certifiers who could not meet the licensing accreditation requirements back into the certification profession. These provisions were introduced when concerns existed about an ageing and shrinking certification workforce as well as the affordability and accessibility of professional indemnity insurance. Since the passage of these provisions, the number of certifiers in Queensland has stabilised, and other measures have been implemented such as accreditation of professional standard schemes which limits liability which all seek to address uncertainty about PI insurance. Given this and that the provisions have not yet commenced, they are no longer considered necessary.

There are several minor operational amendments to the QBCC Act proposed in the bill to improve government and regulator processes and to improve existing provisions; for example, extending the ability for the QBCC to share relevant information with Queensland statutory bodies such as those involved in regulating other elements of the building industry such as QLeave. The bill also clarifies that both committing offences and contravening requirements under relevant legislation—the QBCC Act, the BIF Act and the Building Act—are grounds for disciplinary action for current and former QBCC licensees.

Finally I note that, overall, stakeholders involved in consultation on amendments in the bill did not raise any particular concerns. This consultation included: the Ministerial Construction Council, which comprises key building and construction industry representatives; and trade unions and regulators who raised no concerns about, for example, the intention to provide clarity regarding the 'ban the banners' provisions. Likewise, no concerns were raised by industry or local governments regarding the use of treated greywater in cooling towers for air-conditioning or the use of holding tanks for sewage and greywater. Auditing professional bodies consulted regarding the trust accounting requirements supported the clarification of the auditing and reporting provisions in the BIF Act.

I am also pleased to advise that industry consultation on the head contractor licensing exemption issues resulted in support for the approach proposed in the bill which seeks to balance the benefits of the head contractor licensing exemption with the need for some contractors to be licensed as well as ensuring security of payment protections.

This concludes the remarks that I wish to make regarding the bill. I ask Mr Cassidy to talk about the operational impact of these changes, and then we will be happy to take any questions committee members might have.

ACTING CHAIR: Thank you, Ms Barron. Mr Cassidy?
Brisbane

Mr Cassidy: Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to appear this morning before the committee. Before I make a short statement from an operational perspective about the bill, I too would like to respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which we meet and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging. My name is Richard Cassidy and I am currently the strategic advisor at the Queensland Building and Construction Commission, also known as the QBCC.

Let me start by saying that I believe that the Building and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the BOLA Bill, will fulfil its purpose in enhancing the effectiveness and transparency of the QBCC's regulatory framework. The BOLA Bill amendments are intended to be minor and clarifying in nature and do not introduce any new powers or responsibilities for the QBCC. The QBCC welcomes and supports the bill and its various amendments to legislative provisions, including those relating to head contractor licensing, decision-making and sharing information on investigation outcomes. Minor technical amendments within the bill will also improve the operation of other building related legislation. These are sensible reforms that will improve the way that the QBCC performs its regulatory and other functions and increase the transparency of our operations to the benefit of all of our stakeholders.

The amendments will enable the QBCC to immediately suspend a licence if there is a serious risk of harm or financial loss to any person. As things stand at the moment, the QBCC may immediately suspend a licence because of serious financial or safety risks to other licensees, their employees, consumers and suppliers of building materials or services, but not to the general public. By amending this protection to include literally any person, the QBCC will have a greater ability to act against risks of harm and safety, financial and otherwise. Again, this is a sensible change that will increase protection for the building and construction industry as well as the general public and improve the QBCC's ability to do its job.

A number of the changes in the bill relate to security of payment, with further enhancements to the project trust account framework. These will provide more financial certainty for building industry participants. The bill will also help those QBCC stakeholders that make a complaint about a building industry licensee to allow the QBCC to share the outcomes of investigations with complainants without the need for them to lodge a right-to-information application. It will afford the complainant the right to information about their complaint, which is a simple supportive change. This improves transparency and accountability, and I have no doubt that this amendment will reduce the frustrations currently experienced by some of our stakeholders. The bill will also clarify licensing requirements for head contractors to further simplify and improve regulation for industry participants. In other commonsense changes brought about by the bill, an expansion of the definition of 'relevant agency' will allow us, the QBCC, to share information with other agencies for the mutual benefit of all agencies involved.

To summarise, I believe that the Building and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 will provide greater clarity for building industry participants and help to increase the accountability and transparency in service delivery by the QBCC.

ACTING CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr Cassidy. Page 31 of the explanatory notes talks about the legal case and decision that led to the change with regard to the placement of solar panels and solar hot-water systems. Can you give us a bit more detail about the case, the implications of it and what happened with it?

Ms Barron: The case was Bettson Properties Pty Ltd & Anor v Tyler [2019] QCA 176. The issue at hand was around whether the solar panels that Ms Tyler had placed on the roof of her house, on the northerly aspect, were in contravention of a building covenant. The understanding of the legislation as it was and the ban the banners provisions in the Building Act were that a developer covenant could not for reasons of, for example, aesthetics—street look—prohibit where solar panels could be placed. In the end, the Queensland Court of Appeal found that the panels needed to be removed and that was not the policy intent for those changes that were introduced in 2010. Following that decision of the Court of Appeal, the government made a decision that it wished to ensure the policy intent of the legislation was achieved.

ACTING CHAIR: I find interesting the removal of aesthetics from installation requirements. Has the department fully explored the consequences of that and what it might mean for the future?

Ms Barron: I think probably the important issue to note here is around the optimal placement of solar panels for the purposes of electricity generation, that is, generally on the northerly aspect, as you would appreciate, so east, north, west. Those aesthetic issues were investigated in 2010 and we understand the intention is still to achieve optimal placement of solar panels.

Mr MILLAR: Clause 21 amends section 256 in relation to combustible cladding. It proposes a strengthening of the QBCC's powers to take enforcement action for breaches relating to the combustible cladding checklist. Can the department advise how many breaches of this nature the QBCC has taken enforcement action against?

Ms Barron: I understand that the first of those was lodged with the courts yesterday.

Mr MILLAR: Does the department have a breakdown of statistics of judicial decisions regarding breaches of the combustible cladding checklist?

Ms Barron: The first was lodged only yesterday.

Mr WALKER: Can the department elaborate on the legal case and the decision, referred to in the explanatory notes on page 31, that brought about the need for the proposed changes to the Building Act 1975?

ACTING CHAIR: I am sorry, member for Townsville, but I just asked that question.

Mr WALKER: I am sorry; I could not hear you properly.

ACTING CHAIR: I shall come back to you, member for Townsville. We will go to the member for Stretton.

Mr MARTIN: Following on from the chair's question, could the department explain the term 'ban the banners', for those who are not familiar with it? It seems a little bit confusing if you have not come across that term. Who are the banners and where did that terminology come from? Have you heard of any confusion from stakeholders at all?

Ms Barron: I agree that it can be a little confusing so apologies for using what has become jargon. The banners in this context were people who were seeking to ban. In this instance it was the developers who were seeking to ban where solar panels could be placed on a house. They were the banners; not banners as in something that you might carry. The provisions became known as 'ban the banners' because they sought to ban the behaviour of people who were seeking to ban behaviour. That is just the explanation for it. In relation to the second part of the question, for those people who have been involved in this issue 'ban the banners' is a well understood term and so people understand what you are talking about. However, equally it is jargon.

Mr WEIR: Can you give a little more clarity around building certifiers? What amendments have been made? Did you say that there was a shortage of certifiers so you had to encourage more into that position? Is that right?

Ms Barron: When this particular provision, the alternative licensing pathway, was contemplated, we had been seeing a reduction in the number of certifiers. This was seemingly on the back of some quite substantial increases in professional indemnity insurance premiums that were seen in 2019. There were concerns nationally about what was happening there and I believe we have previously briefed the committee on that. However, in the intervening years the number of certifiers has stabilised. The situation regarding professional indemnity insurance has also stabilised. There are now other pathways to support certifiers in meeting their professional obligations and in coming into the profession, including through a national professional standards scheme. For that reason it was considered that the issues that were faced in relation to the reason for this particular amendment had moved and we would continue to use the other avenues that were available.

Mr WEIR: It was really personal protection for them—

Ms Barron: Professional indemnity insurance, yes.

Mr WALKER: I apologise if I break in and out. I refer to clause 21, which amends section 256, relating to combustible cladding.

ACTING CHAIR: Member for Townsville, the deputy chair just asked that question. I was going to ask about the subcontractors at clause 25, which amends section 32. I know that you are keen to hear about issues of subcontracting. Do you have a question on that?

Mr WALKER: Chair, you can ask that question as I am having trouble with the link.

ACTING CHAIR: Over the years there have been many changes on the issues of dealing with head contractors and people down the chain as well. I know this one provides some extra protection. Mr Cassidy, can you elaborate on incidents where the subcontractors have not been protected or covered due to other people coming into the contractual chain, which obviously has led to this change?

Mr Cassidy: Queensland has been on a journey of introducing enhanced security of payment protections into the industry. As you would appreciate, the contracting chain as it relates to the building and construction industry can be complex, with large numbers of subcontractors and

suppliers supporting a major residential or commercial development. The intention of the amendments are to enable, through prescription by regulation, that a certain party in that chain is required to either have a project trust account or a retention trust account. It creates a safety mechanism to avoid parties that may not be captured within the core security of payment framework to be brought in. Historically, an example may be a developer or a special purpose vehicle at the top of a contractual chain.

ACTING CHAIR: I know that the legislation and the regulations in this area are extensive. Dare I ask: do we have everyone covered with this? Have we extended the protections as far as possible with this particular clause? I think everyone is included now, surely.

Mr Cassidy: I will make a quick remark about the current state of project trust accounts and then defer to you, Ainslie, in relation to the phased rollout. As the committee will be aware, the QBCC is responsible for regulating industry compliance with the project trust account framework. As at 5 April 2022, there are currently 288 trust accounts registered with the QBCC. We have completed our first trust account audit program and looked into 21 trust accounts to check that they were providing the level of security payment expected, which are things like looking at transactions in and out of the bank account and the supporting documentation that is required to be kept. We are about to commence our second audit program. That will look at a further 27 of those trust accounts.

In relation to whether all players in the industry are captured, I will pass over to Ainslie to talk about the rollout of project trust accounts.

Ms Barron: As the acting chair referred to, the government has undertaken extensive work in relation to security of payment reforms since 2017. This includes the introduction of the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act which brought all payment legislation together into one act which helps provide clarity around where legislative provisions are to be found. It has undertaken substantial work in relation to the range of protections which are available to those involved in the building and construction industry and around the protection of subcontractor payments. A key part of this is around the project trust account implementation.

Your question goes to the point around full protection. We are looking at full implementation of that framework coming on board over the next couple of years. The trust account and retention trust account requirements, combined with other protections that exist within the security of payment legislation, should ensure comprehensive coverage of money that is held within the building construction chain. These provisions in relation to the head contractor licensing exemption also provide for flexibility to ensure that everyone is covered, even if the head contractor is exempted from holding a QBCC licence.

ACTING CHAIR: ‘Comprehensive’ is the word on this.

Ms Barron: Yes.

Mr MILLAR: In relation to clause 66, can the department please advise whether there is any expansion to the minister’s powers in relation to the use of confidential information?

Ms Barron: This is not an expansion of the minister’s powers. It is about modern drafting terminology, I have been advised.

Mr MILLAR: With regard to the confidential information, what are some of the requirements of the use of this information?

Ms Barron: In terms of the sharing of that complaint information, the bill is seeking to achieve what the original policy intent was, which was allowing the QBCC to advise complainants of the outcome of their investigation. They also align with other requirements placed on government agencies and local governments to provide complainants with information about the outcomes of their complaint. In terms of safeguards, the bill proposes that the obligation to release complaint information will rest with the commissioner, and those whom the commissioner delegates. These provide the safeguards to ensure that information disclosure is only practised by officers deemed suitable by the commissioner. Of course, privacy requirements are also relevant here, so discretion will need to be exercised about what information is to be released.

Mr WALKER: Can the department please elaborate on the background of the proposed changes to appeal against decision of pool safety management plans—the change of clause 22 with clause 11?

Ms Barron: It is really important to be aware that within this context we are talking about a very particular type of pool. These are pools associated with class 3 buildings, so we are effectively talking about pools in resorts. There are, I believe, about eight of those plans in place currently in the state.

They are reviewed annually. In terms of the amendment itself, it was really about ensuring that appeal rights were in place. This was tidying just to make sure that everything was in line, if anyone had a concern.

Ms Neuendorf: They already had an appeal right to the Development Tribunal. This gives them an internal review right. When the pool safety laws were transferred to the QBCC, the appeal rights were transferred to the QBCC in line with the QBCC Act which has an internal review right and an external review right. There was oversight at the time where there was only an external review right. This is tidying up to keep them both in line with all other matters.

Mr WEIR: My question involves the Planning Act. What has led to that? Are these specifically drainage issues that has brought on this amendment?

Ms Barron: In relation to amendments in the Planning Act, these are relating to enforcement notices and providing for a failure to make a decision under the Building Act. We were going through the various pieces of legislation which relate to enforcement and making sure that all enforcement provisions across all the pieces of legislation were aligned. As you can appreciate, over time misalignments can occur, and we are looking to ensure that all appeal rights, for example, or failure to make a decision line up across the various pieces of legislation.

Mr WEIR: There was no specific incident that brought this?

Ms Barron: No, this was just us doing our job.

Mr MARTIN: I have a question for the department in respect of the proposed amendments to the Plumbing and Drainage Act, specifically section 74 and 78—discharge of toilet water and kitchen grey water. Can the department elaborate on what led to these proposed amendments and why they are required? Do you have any examples of illegal discharge of grey water which you have found amongst builders?

Ms Barron: The proposed amendments did come up as a result of ongoing discussions that we have with local governments and the industry. The current requirements in the Plumbing and Drainage Act require sewage to be discharged to a sewer where the premises are located within a reticulated sewer area or use an onsite sewage treatment facility. These requirements have been found to be problematic where there is insufficient space to accommodate an onsite sewage treatment facility, or the sewerage connection has a time limited purpose, such as a construction site. The amendment will allow owners of premises to discharge sewage, or grey water, or both, directly into a sealed holding tank for collection and disposal offsite by a truck under a permit issued by a local government. They will also allow a property owner without access to suit all sewage discharge points to lawfully install a holding tank that temporarily stores sewage that is later collected and disposed of appropriately. Our view is that this provides for a safe, practical and cost effective solution in circumstances where accessing a suitable sewage discharge point is not possible. It was raised with the department, and the government chose to address the matter in this particular way.

Mr WEIR: On the same subject of the use of treated grey water and use in cooling and so forth, is that specifically for those uses described in the bill, or is that for a broader use of treated grey water?

Ms Barron: The overall framework will limit the types of industrial use which are permitted. It is intended that the industrial use of treated grey water can be used for cooling towers, for air conditioning purposes, in large building developments. It does also prescribe for other industrial uses for treated grey water, including water for flushing toilets on an industrial scale, so essentially large-scale developments. Really importantly, the bill includes safeguards such as requiring the grey water to be treated by a treatment plant that has an appropriate capacity for the use, and it will specify the quality of the water the plant must produce for its use. That is the coverage which is outlined in the bill.

Mr WEIR: There would have to be designated lines to transfer that water?

Ms Barron: Yes, there are very strict requirements around how all types of water are used, whether that is potable water, grey water or black water.

Mr WEIR: Maybe some way down the track before there will be much of it being—

Ms Barron: In the end, grey water is water from basins, showers and that kind of thing.

ACTING CHAIR: There being no further questions that will conclude the briefing. Thank you to everyone who has participated today. Thank you to the secretariat and the Hansard reporters. A transcript of these proceedings will be available on the committee's web page in due course. We do not have any questions on notice. I declare this public briefing closed. Thank you.

The committee adjourned at 9.56 am.