

Question on Notice

No. 98

Asked on 17 February 2011

MS VAN LITSENBURG asked the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (MR HINCHLIFFE) –

QUESTION:

With reference to some parts of the Redcliffe Electorate that were among the many areas affected during the recent floods-

Will the Minister explain the benefit of the recently announced pool safety exemptions for local pool owners?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Redcliffe for her question.

While this question was asked of the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, due to recent changes in Ministerial responsibility, I am now the Minister responsible for this matter and therefore provide this response.

In response to the Queensland floods and Cyclone Yasi, the Queensland Government has delayed the application of the pool safety certificate requirements for rental properties with non-shared pools, such as houses. This delay applies from 8 January to 8 July 2011 and allows these properties to be leased without a pool safety certificate. Instead, the owner must give a 'form 37' warning notice to the tenant before entering the lease. This notice advises that the pool may not comply with the pool safety laws and may pose a risk to young children.

All other aspects of the new pool safety laws still apply, and are not affected. Pool owners still need to ensure their pool complies with the pool safety laws applicable when the pool was built. Owners affected by the delay are still encouraged to use the six month delay period to make any upgrades needed to meet the new pool safety standard, and obtain a pool safety certificate from a licensed pool safety inspector to provide greater protection for young children.

The reality is that the scale of these disasters have meant that the impact of the floods and the cyclone have been felt State-wide. This delay applies State-wide and is intended to more easily allow homes to be rented to evacuees, or people who are assisting with recovery efforts.