

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 1.3

Question No. 28

Senator Carr asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2006:

- a) The Department said in February that Ministers would be considering whether to make the Working Party's report public (p. L&C 46). Can you now advise whether the report will be made public? If it won't be, why not?
- b) The Department also advised that the question of further public consultation was a matter for Ministers. Was this question considered and, if so, what was the outcome?
- c) What is the timeframe for action from here on in?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a) As this is a joint Ministerial process, the Working Party's report cannot be released until it is considered by the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs (MCCA).
- b) The Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG) Ministers did not make any decision on the need for, or any process for, further public consultation, although they did ask that the draft legislation be submitted to SCAG for endorsement when it has been prepared.

If MCCA endorses the final report and regulation impact statement, it will be a matter for Queensland, in consultation with MCCA, to develop the draft uniform legislation and consider whether there is a need for further consultation.

- c) The Department is advised that the Standing Committee of Officials of Consumer Affairs has considered the *Report on Residential Tenancy Databases* and regulation impact statement, and that the matter will be referred to MCCA Ministers in the third quarter of 2006 for consideration out-of-session.

Further detail regarding the MCCA process and timeframe for action would more appropriately be dealt with by the Department of Treasury.