

31 January 2012

Ms Miriam Cullen
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Dear Ms Cullen

I refer to your email 25 January 2012.

I regret I am unable to advise you in respect of the question appearing at page 56 of the transcript, from Ms Mitchell – that is, I do not know whether the increase in QCAT's work over that of all the previous Tribunals it absorbed came more or less from metropolitan, or rural and regional areas.

As to the series of supplementary questions enclosed with your email:

1. Prior to the commencement of QCAT on 1 December 2009 the State Government advertised extensively in metropolitan and regional newspapers, emphasising the 'single gateway' aspect.
2. QCAT has the same powers as the Courts in dealing with vexatious litigants. Happily, to date, it has not had to use them.
3. The use of a single registry for a number of Tribunals, rather than the creation of one Tribunal, seems to me to carry a number of the disadvantages discussed in our recent appearance before the Committee. In particular, it would attract only minimal economies; does not enhance the collegiate, organisational and economic benefits which (as our experience with QCAT shows) are attracted by a single organisation; and create a structure in which the single gateway simply conceals, but inevitably leads to, the same multiplicity of gateways (ie, different Tribunals) which always existed.

4. While the QCAT Act turns its face against costs orders, it also provides a useful and simple mechanism whereby the presiding member can quickly estimate and fix costs. This avoids all of the delay and additional costs of historical methods of taxing, or assessing them.

I trust this information is of assistance to your Committee.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Wilson', written in a cursive style.

Justice Alan Wilson
President