



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety**  
**Consumer Protection**

8 September 2020

Our Ref: A33762383

Enquiries: Patricia Blake, 6552 9260

Ms Michelle Mackenzie  
Chief Executive Officer  
Shelter WA  
1st Floor, Claisebrook Lotteries House  
33 Moore Street  
EAST PERTH WA 6004

By email: CEO@shelterwa.org.au

  
Dear Ms Mackenzie

**RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES (COVID-19 RESPONSE) ACT 2020 (WA) -  
EXTENSION OF THE EMERGENCY PERIOD**

I am writing in relation to the Government's decision regarding the *Residential Tenancies (COVID-19 Response) Act 2020 (WA)* (the RTCR Act).

The Government has announced the extension of the emergency period until 28 March 2021, without amendment to the RTCR Act. This means that all of the existing provisions under the RTCR Act will continue to apply for the next six months.

In arriving at this decision, the Government was mindful that the existing provisions have produced a period of relative stability in the market. With high levels of unemployment, diminishing payments for JobKeeper and JobSeeker, extremely low vacancy rates with correlating rent increases and the ever present threat of a coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic outbreak in the State, the Government's objective is to ensure ongoing stability and certainty for market participants.

I want to thank you for Shelter WA's feedback on the impact of the existing provisions on the boarding and lodging sector. In particular, the limitations on the ability of accommodation providers to terminate an accommodation agreement swiftly where the conduct of a resident places the safety of other residents and staff at risk. I appreciate that this outcome is not what the sector had hoped for. I would like to reassure you, however, that the impact the extension would have on the boarding and lodging sector was considered by the Government.

The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety - Consumer Protection Division values its engagement with Shelter WA and the community housing sector and is committed to continuing to work collaboratively with you to support your members.

Yours sincerely



Lanie Chopping

**COMMISSIONER FOR CONSUMER PROTECTION**