

OFFICE OF LAND AND HOUSING SUPPLY

869. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Planning:

I refer the minister to the recently established office of land and housing supply.

- (1) How many staff are employed in the new office?
- (2) Where have the staff come from, at what levels are they employed and what are their designated roles?
- (3) What has this office achieved to date?

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The office of land and housing supply does not employ any permanent staff; rather staff with appropriate skills and experience are applied to tasks on a project-managed basis. A senior contract position to the office, the urban land coordinator, filled the role until September 2010 and a new appointment has been recommended and is about to be announced.
- (2) The Department of Planning has assigned staff from the urban development program to meet the needs of the office. Fourteen FTEs are currently working on this program covering land and housing supply across the state. The levels of staff active on matters concerning the office of land and housing supply therefore range from planning officer level to class II senior executive.
- (3) The office has tracked and assisted approvals for major land and housing projects across state and local governments; progressed planning and policy reforms relating to land and housing approvals as per "Planning Makes it Happen: a blueprint for planning reform", September 2009; collated consistent data across state government agencies on land and housing supply and demand, infrastructure costs, housing affordability and other factors, such as taxation and finance; identified six priority development areas across Perth and Peel for approval and clearance facilitation; reported regularly through the land availability working group of the Ministerial Taskforce on Approvals, Development and Sustainability; and coordinated with the urban development program run by the Department of Planning on behalf of the Western Australian Planning Commission.