

BROWNLIE TOWERS — REDEVELOPMENT

462. MR S.J. PRICE to the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the long-awaited demolition of Brownlie Towers, part of the Bentley 360 redevelopment project. Can the minister update the house on how this project will support local businesses drive the local economy and create local jobs?

Mr P.C. TINLEY replied:

I thank the member for the question and for his enduring interest in urban infill, particularly in the Forrestfield area where part of the Metronet program is happening out his way. Members who are activated on this issue will know that Brownlie Towers has finally been demolished. It was a longstanding piece of failed public policy for a facility that was long past its use-by date. I can report to the house that although it has been demolished, it was with minimal disruption to the neighbourhood. The artwork and selected artefacts from around the building and the area have been removed carefully and will be preserved and incorporated in the new development so we can have some reference to the history.

One of Australia's biggest excavators was used on the site to remove the building rubble. For those who are interested, up to 95 per cent of the rubble will be processed offsite and recycled. The Bentley community liaison committee, chaired by Mr Ian Carter, formerly of Anglicare, recently held a community-wide vote to determine how the temporary landscape of the former site will be used. This is a 22-hectare site. There was strong support from the community for an active scheme on the precinct whilst it goes through its developmental phases, including a BMX track, turfed viewing bank, tree nursery and other improvements. The landscaping of these facilities is scheduled to start in early August and will be open to the public later this year.

The Bentley 360 project is designed to deliver at least 1 500 new homes only 15 minutes from where we sit right now. It is a critical piece of urban infrastructure that can add to the thoughtful density that is required for this city. More importantly, it will create 2 200 jobs across its life and over \$1 billion worth of economic activity through its construction phase. It symbolises the commitment that the McGowan government has to much-needed urban infill; the thoughtful density required to make sure we activate this city. This city's urban sprawl is about 147 kilometres long. We have more water pipes in this city than all of Tokyo. If we do not address it, the cost of delivering services to the outer rim of that universe is going to be prohibitive. It is going to create the sort of circumstances that Western Australian families do not need.

But there are headwinds. What was once a singular piece of bipartisan policy about the need for urban infill seems to have been ruptured by the Leader of the Opposition, who wants to break from that bipartisan tradition. In fact, Hon John Day, who was a champion of this particular policy area, mandated local government authorities achieve 47 per cent infill to get us on the road to creating the sorts of outcomes that we need. I note that the Leader of the Opposition has made a few comments about this. Some of them are welcome. I really welcome her joining the sensible understanding around the sale of Western Power; the absolute folly of actually selling off that asset.

Several members interjected.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: We assume members opposite believe it. We assume they will not be rolled in the party room. We also welcome their sensible approach to retail trading hours. But we are looking forward to a sensible approach by the Leader of the Opposition and the opposition to urban infill. We hope that they walk away from the sort of commentary that was made in March of this year in the *Subiaco Post*, which talked about infill target zealotry—that in 2021 they will reverse some of the changes that they think are inappropriate. I want to refer to the Premier's favourite quotable person in this area; none other than the Property Council of Australia's executive director, Sandra Brewer. Sandra has a problem—she has accused policymakers of zealotry and insinuating probity issues for political gain. I will give the Leader of the Opposition a tip; she seems to be on that listening tour that was talked about this morning. There have been four questions so far but not one from the Leader of the Opposition to this side, and certainly not to the Premier. I encourage the Leader of the Opposition to continue that listening tour and see if she can come up with some sensible policies that we can all get around.