

REAL ESTATE INSTITUTE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA — SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS

Statement by Member for Gosnells

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells) [12.56 pm]: This week there was a misleading article in *The West Australian* declaring that the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia wants the federal government to abandon plans for a residential building mandatory disclosure scheme. I checked with the chief executive officer of REIWA and can confirm that this is not the case. REIWA has not called on the government to abandon its plans for energy ratings on homes for sale or rent. REIWA recognises the need to address greenhouse issues and that governments must canvass many options in this regard.

Over the past year REIWA has been subsidising training seminars to enable its members to learn more about sustainable dwellings and energy efficiency practices. REIWA must be congratulated for supporting sustainability training for its members. One hundred and sixty-three agents have attended the latest series of workshops, and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Many agents have incorporated this information into property promotional material as a direct result of attending the information workshops. While we are waiting for residential building mandatory disclosure to be considered by the WA government, it is worth noting that there is almost no other state government-funded initiative to improve the energy and water efficiency of our existing housing stock in WA.

I congratulate the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia for leading the way to educate real estate professionals about the role they can play in improving our existing housing stock while acting on the concerns of their clients about rising utility costs and environmental sustainability. Potentially, residential building mandatory disclosure will give all Western Australians access to information at point of sale or lease from a REIWA professional, who will know the importance of energy and water efficiency.