

STIRLING CITY CENTRE PROJECT — PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

358. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Planning:

Before I ask my question, I acknowledge the year 12 students in the public gallery from Murdoch College Australia, which is in the member for Jandakot's electorate.

I have had some very positive community feedback about the workshops on the Stirling City Centre project. That very exciting project has been very well received by the people in my electorate. I would be pleased if the minister could update the chamber on its progress and on what the Liberal-National government is doing to see the project to its fruition.

Mr J.H.D. DAY replied:

I thank the member for Scarborough for this question. As she has demonstrated, she has a strong interest from a local perspective in the development of the Stirling City Centre. I hope most members know that it is located in the area of Osborne Park and Innaloo where the two localities are joined. It is an area also where there is major traffic congestion and not a particularly good use of the road and rail infrastructure. There is a big opportunity to provide a much better planning outcome to better use the infrastructure, bearing in mind that it is not very far from the CBD and that there is very good road and rail transport to the area. The government is very keen to further develop the area. That has been demonstrated, in part, by the allocation of \$5.5 million from the metropolitan region improvement fund, which was announced in this year's budget. Together with the \$3 million provided by the City of Stirling, \$8.5 million will be used over the next couple of years to undertake much more detailed planning and environmental assessments for the project.

Cabinet has also recently agreed to the transfer of about 11 hectares of developable land from Main Roads to the WA Planning Commission at no cost so that the area can be further developed. The value of that land when it is developed can be made available for the provision of some of the costs of building infrastructure in the area. That is the second substantial decision by the government to ensure that this project can be progressed in a very timely way. A funding model will be developed to ensure that the key infrastructure needs are addressed. In particular, the construction of Stephenson Avenue and Stephenson Bridge can be put in place. Infrastructure costs will be incurred by realigning the drainage in the area. The outcome will be the creation of a high-amenity urban stream with extensive public open space. Once that funding assessment is available, it will be used in discussions with the City of Stirling, which is the partner in this project, and with the relevant state agencies and the commonwealth government. I expect that a detailed business case will be provided to the board of the Stirling Alliance at its meeting next month. After that, I will take it to cabinet for further consideration.

The other next major step is the land assembly and activation. As I mentioned, the government has agreed to transfer land to the WA Planning Commission for this to occur. Currently, a lot of the landownership arrangements are fragmented. When that decision is made, the project can be facilitated. There is a very big opportunity for a major residential development for around 25 000 residents in the centre of the city of Stirling and for the employment of about 30 000 people as a result of this project. I am very pleased with the progress that has been made.