

PLANNING REFORMS — ECONOMIC GROWTH

618. Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI to the Minister for Planning:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to cutting red tape across the state's planning system and making life easier for businesses.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how this government's plans to streamline the state's planning system and overhaul the development assessment panel process will drive economic growth and support small business?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how these changes will help deliver responsible and fair infill that is supported by the federal Minister for Population, Cities and Urban Infrastructure, Alan Tudge?

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

The member for Warren–Blackwood does not like cutting red tape.

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Obviously, he does not. The Nationals do not like making things better for business in Western Australia.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warren–Blackwood, I call you to order for the first time.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: We all thought that, but now it is confirmed by the member for Warren–Blackwood. He does not want to make it easier for small business in WA. The National Party does not like regional roads, and does not like small business.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party, you have a chance to ask a question.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The National Party does not like regional roads, will not support our regional run-off program to help save lives in Western Australia, and now it is anti-business.

- (1)–(2) Today we announced our 19-point action plan to streamline the approvals process, to create a more consistent, efficient process and to address many of the transparency concerns out there in the community. It is based on three key principles—making our planning system easier to understand and navigate; making sure our system is more consistent and efficient; and also making sure that our planning is aimed at making great places for people to live. While we have been obsessed with process, we have not been obsessed with making sure that we create great places for people to live. We have taken a number of key actions, and there has already been a lot of support from industry and the community for what we are doing. There are over 1 000 zones out there in our planning system. We want to reduce that to create more consistency across our suburbs. We believe that the development assessment panels need to reform to be a bit more consistent, more transparent, and also take away many of the conflict of interest claims that have been raised in relation to this issue. Abolishing the need for small businesses to apply for change of use in town centres and main streets is again about making it easier for small business, targeting reduced time frames, and also making sure we have more consistent community consultation. Some councils consult really well; some councils do not consult well at all, so we are taking a consistent approach to ensure that the community is aware of what is going on. These are simple things, such as changing the signage when a development approval is in place so that people can go to the block and see not only a development approval, but also a picture of the proposed building—just so people can see what is happening. Pragmatic, simple changes are about making sure that we have a more efficient, consistent system, but one that cuts red tape, lets people get on with it, and supports small business in our community.