

Division 44: Planning, Lands and Heritage — Service 1, Planning, \$105 731 000 —

Ms R.S. Stephens, Chair.

Ms R. Saffioti, Minister for Planning.

Ms J. Cant, Director General.

Mr V. Davies, Assistant Director General, Heritage and Property Services.

Ms L. Kelly, Assistant Director General, Strategy and Engagement.

Ms C. Gustavsson, Acting Assistant Director General, Land Use Planning.

Mr J. Kwong, Chief Finance Officer.

Mrs K. Bonus, Chief Planning Adviser, Reform, Design and State Assessment.

Mr D. Caddy, Chairman, Western Australian Planning Commission.

Mr D. McFerran, Principal Policy Adviser.

The CHAIR: This estimates committee will be reported by Hansard. The daily proof *Hansard* will be available the following day. It is the intention of the chair to ensure that as many questions as possible are asked and answered and that both questions and answers are short and to the point. The estimates committee's consideration of the estimates will be restricted to discussion of those items for which a vote of money is proposed in the consolidated account. Questions must be clearly related to a page number, item, program or amount in the current division. Members should give these details in preface to their question. If a division or service is the responsibility of more than one minister, a minister shall be examined only in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.

The minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee, rather than asking that the question be put on notice for the next sitting week. I ask the minister to clearly indicate what supplementary information she agrees to provide and I will then allocate a reference number. If supplementary information is to be provided, I seek the minister's cooperation in ensuring that it is delivered to the principal clerk by close of business Friday, 1 October 2021. I caution members that if a minister asks that a matter be put on notice, it is up to the member to lodge the question on notice through the online questions system.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIR: The member for Moore.

Mr R.S. LOVE: We do not have much time, so I will go to a couple of relevant issues. On page 739 of budget paper No 2, volume 2, is an allocation for coastal erosion hotspots, which is a subject dear to my heart because I have many of them in my electorate. I am very aware of the problems around addressing those. Can the minister outline where some of those funds are going and how communities can access that funding, or is that being driven as a state government program through direct government action? What impact will that have on expenditure in other coastal erosion areas? I know that the Department of Transport has a coastal erosion program and there is one under the climate action policy as well, I believe. How do they all marry up, rather than having three separate programs running?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: This is an additional amount of money. In answer to how they all marry together, we are trying to use all three pools of funding in a central assessment and allocation process. We approved an additional \$18.5 million for the Department of Transport over 2021–22 to 2025–26. In 2021–22, 54 coastal management planning projects will be undertaken. The high-priority projects include the Rottne Island Authority and the City of Albany. For example, the City of Albany received \$230 000 to complete the design of new groynes at Emu Point and the Rottne Island Authority received \$1.8 million for Thomson Bay south. Broadly speaking, we announce a range of grants each year. Councils usually apply for those and we pay money on a milestone basis. This is a continuing program. One thing that we are looking for in response to our coastal grants is to make sure that the Transport grants and the Planning grants work together to, in a sense, assess and undertake the planning and study work and some of the infrastructure work that goes with it. That is how we are trying to make those processes work much better together.

Mr R.S. LOVE: I turn now to the outcomes and key effectiveness indicators on page 731. A couple of the indicators seem to be quite low to me. Is the budget estimate and estimated actual percentage of development assessment panel applications determined within the statutory time frame in 2019–20 and 2020–21 acceptable to the department? Is that the speed with which these matters are dealt, or does this need to be streamlined further to ensure that the processes are completed in an agreed time frame?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: We would always prefer 100 per cent, but we are constantly working to improve those processes. We are looking at planning reform and how we could better coordinate the work of referral agencies in providing advice on assessments. In many instances, local governments have given me different numbers, but sometimes they also do not start the clock. For me, it is about the whole process. It is about making sure that our referral agencies are working well and that our approvals can facilitate strong development. Like I said, I am always looking at

improving, and part of planning reform is the assessment and coordination of assessments by referral agencies, and that will help us meet those statutory time frames.

Mr R.S. LOVE: I refer to Aboriginal heritage management on page —

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Sorry, member; that is not my portfolio.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Pardon me.

The CHAIR: We have time for one last question.

Dr D.J. HONEY: I refer to the net amount appropriated to deliver services under the heading “Delivery of Services” on page 727. There is quite a significant decline of \$21 million in the budget allocation from the 2020–21 estimated actual right through the forward estimates. Can the minister explain the change in that estimate?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It is a bit tricky when the departments cross a lot of portfolios. A lot of the reduction is due to re-cashflow or changes to specific projects. For example, native title compensation for the Ashburton North Strategic Industrial Area inflated the figure one year, but it does not carry through to the forward years. Other examples include remote Aboriginal community projects; the Northampton lead tailings project; funding amendments to the Planning and Development Act, which was one of my bills; and some heritage recovery projects. A lot of the reduction in the appropriations is the result of the appropriations being inflated by specific projects.

The appropriation was recommended.