

PLANNING — INFILL TARGETS

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

- (1) Can the minister update the house on how the McGowan Labor government is working to take pressure off our growing outer suburbs and instead deliver responsible and appropriate housing diversity close to important transport infrastructure?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house if she is aware of any threats to this approach?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Kingsley for that question.

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

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

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: He is a bit angry this morning, member for Warren–Blackwood! I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(2) As the member knows, we are working to support housing choice in our suburbs. We want to make sure that there is a diversity of housing choices available to everyone throughout the community. The previous government up-zoned a lot of suburbs, as we know, member for Kingsley—Joondalup, Stirling and Swan. It basically took the approach of allowing the subdivision of nearly every block in many instances.

Ms E. Hamilton: Nollamara!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Exactly! Nollamara is always given as an example. The previous government allowed subdivisions across the board. That does not retain the urban canopy or create districts or precincts of activity to support small business. That is what happened under the previous government. When we won government, we chose to do something different. We wanted to make sure that we had diversity of choice in housing supply throughout our suburbs. We did not want wholesale subdivision of our suburbs. We did not want every block to be subdivided. We wanted to create precincts and make sure that we targeted our infill to areas around train stations and activity centres. That is what we are doing. We have been working with councils such as the City of Subiaco. When the initial plan of Subiaco was presented, 1 700 blocks were going to be affected. We reduced that to 275 blocks, with significant density around the Princess Margaret Hospital for Children site, Rokeby Road and the new Subiaco oval development. The same happened with Nedlands. We created density where it is deserved—along key activity corridors and close to public transport. We are not up-zoning every suburban street.

The opposition, particularly the shadow Minister for Planning, wants to unwind it all, but only in the western suburbs, members. I want to also make the clear statement that we adopted the targets set by the previous government. We adopted the suburban targets inherited from the previous government because I did not want three years of debate about the targets we inherited. I supported the targets and we are implementing them, but we are implementing them in a way that will create activity corridors and will not subdivide every block of land. The former Leader of the Opposition wants to unwind all the new planning schemes in the western suburbs, members. He is saying that he does not believe that the western suburbs should have more housing choice or more people; they should all be going to the outer suburbs. That is the approach of the Liberal Party.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: That is the planning approach of the Liberal Party. We know, for example —

Several government members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, your minister is on her feet. I think she knows a little more than you do, so just let her have a say.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: In Nedlands, a new mayor has been elected. The new mayor asked for a meeting with me. I accepted. She sat down and said, “We need an ability to help implement some of these reforms in my council area, because the previous council had not done any of the local planning policies or any other work needed to implement sensible development.” As a result, the mayor wants to take a proactive and constructive approach with the state government. What did the opposition spokesperson for planning do? He bullied and intimidated her in a public meeting, members! That is what he does. Someone had the audacity to say that they wanted to work with the state government, so he tried to belittle the new mayor in front of her constituents. This is not acceptable, Leader of the Opposition. The opposition spokesperson for planning is trying to intimidate the Mayors of Subiaco and Nedlands. No wonder the Liberal Party has a hard time attracting women to the party! What he is doing basically undermines the efforts of elected mayors who are trying to get on with the job and implement sensible development in their areas.

