

HOUSING — AVAILABILITY

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

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's significant efforts in delivering more housing for Western Australians and providing more housing options and housing diversity across the state.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on how the government is unlocking more land to help drive infill development, including in Subiaco?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house if she is aware of anyone who opposes giving Western Australians more housing choice?

Several members interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Planning, I suspect you have a lot of eager helpers here, but I am going to ask them to desist, please.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It is a nice team. I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(2) Of course, it has been a big few weeks in Subiaco. We saw the removal of the last wall at the old Princess Margaret Hospital for Children site. The demolition works have progressed very well there. We are now moving to the civil works to prepare the land for new developments.

Today we were out at Subiaco Oval, a place of many memories for many people. Of course, it was the home of football for many years. Today we are putting on the market the first two sites around the oval, in the oval precinct. One site is over 3 300 square metres, and the other is over 1 000 square metres. It is anticipated that site 1, lot 1, will be up to 30 storeys and site 2 will be up to 11 storeys. Again, this will create more housing choice and more housing opportunities in what is a very good area. It has its own oval, it has Bob Hawke College and brilliant public transport connections—two stations within walking distance and of course a very good bus network. It is a very good location.

We will be aiming for over 2 700 dwellings and over 4 500 people to be living in that area, of course creating more vibrancy, better usage of our public transport system and supporting small business in the area. One of the key things is that when you bring density and people to areas, they support small business; they support local businesses. That is very much what will be happening in Subiaco.

Members should not be surprised but some people opposed this project. It was the member for Cottesloe.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Remember, the member for Cottesloe does not want anyone living near schools. He opposed having any high-density developments near schools because he has this opinion about people who live in apartments. Apparently, everyone who lives in an apartment is a bad person. It was demonstrated again today. Of course, we know it is not the best day for the Leader of the Liberal Party. Not only was the first question he asked deplorable, but today a poll showed that he has only nine per cent support out there.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: When we woke up and saw the poll result in the paper, I thought I would see what his stars said for the rest of the day. We know that he woke up to a bad poll result, but the day might change in relation to his star sign. We checked the member's stars for today. It states —

Relationships at ... work could be intense today.

Several members interjected.

Point of Order

The SPEAKER: I just want to remind members that points of order are heard in silence.

Mr R.S. LOVE: This is not the first time this minister has brought astrology into this chamber. I do not think it has any relevance to the question that has been asked and I ask that she come back to answer the question properly.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please. Minister, you can perhaps explain the relevance.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The relevance is of course that there are a couple of members, one member in particular, who oppose the Subi East development, which I am referring to today. I thought I would double-check how his day is going. The next part of the member's star sign prediction states —

Expect ... colleagues to be more defensive than usual, so tread carefully.

The best stars were for the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, whose stars said —

Strive to be at your diplomatic best. The more you dig your heels in and refuse to budge, the more frustrating the day will be.

Deputy leader, it is yours for the taking! The senior members of the Liberal Party are saying, "Take the leadership", but of course we know that both members of the Liberal Party in this house are puppets of the powerbrokers in the upper house. It does not matter who is Leader of the Liberal Party while the party is still governed by the extremist powerbrokers in the upper house. No-one can recognise this new Liberal Party. It does not look anything like the Liberal Party of the past.