

HOUSING — PLANNING REFORM

69. Mr D.R. MICHAEL to the Premier:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to deliver more housing for Western Australians.

- (1) Can the Premier update the house on the measures being taken to unlock land for new housing opportunities in well-connected and vibrant communities?
- (2) Can the Premier advise the house how these measures will ensure that more people can benefit from having an affordable home?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for Balcatta for the question.

- (1)–(2) Since taking office, we have relentlessly pursued our vision for a city with greater infill and terrific public transport linkages, predominantly Metronet but also major investments in roads across Perth. We have been advocates for density. We have understood the need for additional housing, particularly in proximity to train lines and proximity to amenity, such as hospitals and the like, and also proximity to the CBD.

Today, the Minister for Planning, the Minister for Local Government and I announced a series of reforms to help us create better communities, and to strengthen and streamline our planning system. First, we will establish a permanent pathway for the assessment of development applications of state and regional significance. Over the last few years, although that has been temporary, it has provided billions of dollars of additional investment and over 14 000 jobs. We will make that permanent. We will also ensure that there is a 120-day decision time frame for the special development assessment unit.

Secondly, we will reduce the number of development assessment panels across the state from five to three—one for the inner metropolitan area, one for outer metro and one to service regional WA. The three-panel arrangement will be in place next year. It will be an opt-in process for proponents and will reduce the cost for a development that can access the DAP to \$2 million. There will be exclusions for single homes. Multi-unit developments will be able to access the DAP if the cost will be more than \$2 million. Alternatively, proponents can go to their local government.

We also announced the \$80 million infrastructure development fund—\$40 million for the city and \$40 million for regional WA. That is to help with headworks, regional workers' accommodation, and water, sewerage and electricity, all those things that are necessary and that might tip a project into activity when it might not quite make it otherwise, and provide additional housing out there.

We know that housing is a big issue in Western Australia. We know that providing additional opportunities and additional choice is very important. That is why we are taking real action, both financial and also legislative and regulatory, to ensure that we make it easier for proponents to get out there and provide additional housing for Western Australians, and particularly choice in housing.