

## RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISIONS — POWER CONNECTIONS

*Statement by Minister for Energy*

**MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldivis — Minister for Energy)** [9.13 am]: I am pleased to advise the house of the Cook government's efforts to increase Western Australia's housing supply through accelerating the installation of new power connections for residential subdivisions. These reforms were the result of collaboration between Western Power and the Urban Development Institute of Australia. They demonstrate the consultative approach that our government has taken with industry and the seriousness with which we consider the issue of housing in WA. As a result of that collaboration, Western Power has refined its pre-design conformance review clearance process. As part of the reforms, developers will be given a multi-pathway process that allows them the flexibility to select a solution that fits their project's demands. Eighty projects with construction either complete or due to be complete in the coming weeks have already been identified for clearance. This means that land developers will be able to access certificates of title earlier, thereby bringing more houses to market sooner and at a time when they are desperately needed.

As a result of its collaboration with industry, Western Power has also introduced a technical queries support service and design information package self-service; implemented independent design audits; increased staffing resources; and launched a review and update of the *Underground Distribution Schemes (UDS) Manual* and quarterly technical engagement forums.

I know that there is more to do and I know there are challenges to be met, but through these measures, we are providing industry with a way to bring its projects to market in a more timely manner. I thank the UDIA for its constructive engagement on these reforms.