

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING — ACHIEVEMENTS

**519. Mr F.A. ALBAN to the Minister for Planning:**

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for —

**Mr F.A. ALBAN:** Swan Hills.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, member for Swan Hills.

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** Otherwise known as Duffy.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Mandurah, that is the third time that I am formally calling you to order today.

A government member: Send him home.

**The SPEAKER:** I do not need any advice from anybody in this place. I am sure the member for Mandurah wants to stay here. I call the member for Swan Hills.

**Mr F.A. ALBAN:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am always happy to see the opposition —

**Mr M.P. Whitely:** It's not Duffy; it's Duffer.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bassendean, I formally call you for the first time today.

**Mr F.A. ALBAN:** As I was saying, I am always happy to see the opposition happy. It has had very little to be happy about, so I will not begrudge it that. It has had egg on its face all afternoon. There is more if it wants.

Since the Liberal–National government took office, the minister's department was the subject of a restructure. Can he please explain how the restructure has progressed and the significant efficiency gains that have been achieved?

**Mr J.H.D. DAY replied:**

Indeed, this is an issue we can all be happy about because I think all members are interested in having an efficient and effective planning system so that we can deal with land supply issues, whether it be for residential, commercial, industrial or other developments. This is one of the first decisions made by this government when we came to this office. In fact, it was made by the Premier when he was Leader of the Opposition just after he took up that position. The decision was that if we were successful in being elected to government, we would separate the old Department for Planning and Infrastructure into transport and planning departments, and there is also the lands section, which the Minister for Regional Development has responsibility for. That has allowed the planning component of the old department to be much more focused on making planning decisions and ensuring that issues that need to be addressed are dealt with in a timely fashion.

In 2008–09, 56 per cent of subdivision applications were processed within the 90-day statutory time frame. In 2009–10 that had increased to 71 per cent. In June of this year, it reached 79 per cent. It has gone up from 56 per cent to 79 per cent.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** You should have got an A.

**Mr J.H.D. DAY:** Thank you, member for Vasse. Unfortunately Mr Taylor is not in the press gallery at the moment but I hope he keeps it in mind.

In 2008–09, 55 per cent of planning scheme amendments were determined within the target 90-day period. In 2009–10, this had risen to 67 per cent. In June of this year, it had gone up to 76 per cent, a substantial increase. Those increases in performance are a credit to the officers of the department, led by director general Eric Lumsden. It is also a reflection of the decision that was made by this government to separate out the planning component of the old Department for Planning and Infrastructure so that there could be a much greater focus on planning for the state—decision making, statutory planning and also strategic planning. In recent times we have seen many other examples of achievements that have been made and decisions that have been taken.