

PLANNING REFORM ACTION PLAN

953. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Minister for Planning:

Before I begin, can I acknowledge the fantastic women union leaders from the Anna Stewart Memorial Project with us today in the house.

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's Planning Reform Action Plan, which aims to make the planning system easy to understand and ensure that information on planning matters and decisions are communicated effectively to the community. Is the minister aware of anyone who is undermining these efforts and creating uncertainty within the community about planning decision-making?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Swan Hills for the question. Of course, planning reform is all about making the system more transparent and more efficient, with the aim of creating better places for people to live and making sure that people can navigate the planning system in the community. We are progressing a number of key reforms to standardise land-use zones across Western Australia, to make it a more simple and a more efficient development approvals process. We want to make sure we develop a planning system that is more transparent that the community can be involved in and that we do a good job creating better places to live. What we do not need, of course, are people spreading misinformation and mistruths on the planning system. I am afraid that has happened yet again from the member for Darling Range.

Several members interjected.

Mrs A.K. Hayden interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Darling Range, you did not even need bait on the hook.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: On 30 August 2019, I approved MRS amendment 1343/57—South East and South West Districts Omnibus 3, the purpose of which is to update varied zones and reserves in the south east and south west districts. The amendment contains 22 separate proposals. As a matter of courtesy, the Western Australian Planning Commission notifies local members. It wrote to the member for Darling Range, advising her that submission 1343/57 had gone through. What did the local member do? Did she get across the detail and absorb the information? No! She wrote to people in Cardup and said, "Sadly, Labor state government minister Rita Saffioti has approved the metropolitan region scheme amendment regarding Hopkinson Road in Cardup." The problem is that she got the wrong MRS! She attacked me in a letter she wrote to the community, but she got the wrong MRS. That MRS is still under consideration.

Ms S.E. Winton interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Wanneroo!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I received abusive letters and emails, including one from a local resident who wrote, "How dare you". That local resident then wrote back and said, "Sorry, Alyssa Hayden got it wrong." It is very important, when we are talking about planning in the community, to work to get good outcomes and not make such a mistake. I hope the member apologises to me and all those community members for making such a bad mistake. Another community member wrote and said, "This is what's happened, minister." A member of the public wrote to me and said, "Alyssa Hayden wrote to us telling us something, but it's completely wrong." It is not the first time, nor will it be the last time, that the member for Darling Range, in her political way, has tried to attack the Labor government without getting across the facts.