

MIDLAND WORKSHOPS LAND RELEASE

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

I refer to the Midland Workshops land release. I understand that an expression of interest process to purchase new land in the established suburb of Midland is now underway. Can the minister update the house on what the Liberal–National government is doing to revitalise this important metropolitan centre?

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

I thank the member for the question. He will be well aware that the rejuvenation and revitalisation of Midland has been underway for at least 15 years, with work undertaken by the City of Swan and also by the previous Midland Redevelopment Authority, now part of the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority as a result of legislation passing through this Parliament in 1999. Since then we have seen a substantial transit-oriented development, preservation and conservation of the Midland railway workshops and decontamination of much of the land in that location. I am pleased to advise that additional land is being made available to the market for both residential and commercial purposes. In particular, offers are being sought for the sale of a 2 854 square metre mixed-use site, together with 26 single residential lots. The mixed-use site is expected to result in a three or four-storey development, combining commercial, retail and community uses. The 26 residential lots face the Helena Valley reserve.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** Did you keep enough room for the university?

**Mr J.H.D. DAY:** There is room for a lot more, including the development of the new Midland hospital, which is well advanced. I think the Minister for Health was out there recently. It has just passed the halfway point, and is due to open in the second half of next year.

It is pleasing that additional land worth \$5.5 million has been sold, in particular for four mixed-use development sites. They will include short-stay accommodation and affordable housing. The first of the lots to be settled is in Helena Street. It will provide for commercial retail space on the ground floor, with apartment living on the upper floors.

This is a further step forward in the redevelopment of the Midland railway workshops site, a development which is widely recognised as being of very high standard. It reflects the very significant history of the area and also helps establish Midland as a major metropolitan strategic centre and the eastern gateway into the Perth metropolitan area. As I mentioned, we expect the hospital to be opening in the second half of next year. Together with the other developments and the release of this land, we will see even further development on the MRA land in Midland.