

WHEATBELT LAND USE PLANNING STRATEGY — ACCESS

365. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the minister representing the Minister for Planning:

I refer to question without notice 306 regarding the Wheatbelt land use planning strategy.

- (1) Have any new efforts been made by the Department of Planning to provide hard copies of the strategy to stakeholders and the general public; and, if yes, what materials have been provided and to whom?
- (2) What public advertising has taken place regarding the existence of the strategy and the opportunity that the public has to provide input to its final form?
- (3) Can the minister confirm that the public submissions period for this important document have been extended; and, if so, what is the last date on which submissions or comments can be made?
- (4) Were cheaper options or versions of the strategy considered given the estimated price per unit of \$270; and, if not, why not?
- (5) How many hard copies of the Pilbara planning and infrastructure framework were printed, which stakeholders were these distributed to and what is the unit cost of each of these documents?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided by the Minister for Planning.

- (1) A copy of the strategy and two strategy maps along with a compact disc containing all documents have been sent to all local governments and other stakeholders, including all agencies and people who made a submission on the Wheatbelt land use planning strategy document and members of the public who have contacted the project officer directly. The package has been sent to more than 150 stakeholders in total. People are able to contact the project officer if they would like to receive the CD and a printed copy of the strategy.
- (2) The existence of the strategy has been widely publicised. As a precursor to the preparation of the strategy, the Western Australian Planning Commission released the “Towards a Wheatbelt Regional Strategy” directions paper in September 2009. During the directions paper consultation period, staff held forums in Perth and Northam and invited planning consultants in the Wheatbelt to meet individually with Department of Planning officers. During the preparation of the final strategy, Department of Planning staff also attended the Western Australian Local Government Association’s own meetings to advise on the progress of the project. In regards to the final draft strategy, email notification has been sent to each local government and other stakeholders, together with the mail-out of the hard copy and CD. Advertisements will shortly be appearing in local newspapers.
- (3) Yes, the public submissions period has been extended to Friday, 19 August 2011. It was originally 2 July. The project team is amenable to receiving submissions after this date if people are unable to provide a submission in time.
- (4) Several quotes were investigated. No quote was considered a reasonable expense for a draft document that could be subject to extensive modification in a short period. Printing of the final document has been budgeted for later this calendar year.
- (5) Five hundred copies of the Pilbara planning and infrastructure framework were printed at a cost of approximately \$21 each, totalling \$10 500. It was distributed to recipients on the Western Australian Planning Commission’s standard distribution list, local members, key organisations and local governments in the Pilbara, local media, mining companies and members of the public who requested a copy.