

STATE PLANNING STRATEGY

475. Mr P. ABETZ to the Minister for Planning:

I am aware that the minister recently released a planning strategy that identifies the level of growth in the state over the next 35 years. Can the minister please update the house on the strategy and what it tells us about how the state will grow over this time?

Mr J.H.D. DAY replied:

I thank the member for the question.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Member for West Swan!

Mr J.H.D. DAY: The question refers to a very important document within the state's planning system that has recently been revised and put out for public information in the last week or so. It is actually a requirement of the planning —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr J.H.D. DAY: It is a requirement of the Planning and Development Act that we have a state planning strategy and that it be reviewed every five years. A state planning strategy was agreed and finalised, and put out in 1997, which just happened to be in the time of the previous coalition government. As I said, it was meant to be reviewed every five years—therefore, in 2002; but between 2002 and 2008 there was little or no action in reviewing the state planning strategy, which just happened to coincide with Labor in office. However, the Liberal–National government came to office in 2008. I and this government have been keen to ensure that we have up-to-date planning strategies and frameworks to appropriately face the economic and population growth pressures in Western Australia. It is an important document that is available on the Department of Planning website.

Mr M. McGowan interjected.

Mr J.H.D. DAY: I recommend that members and everybody with a serious interest in planning for the future of the state, which obviously excludes the Leader of the Opposition, look at what is contained within it. One of the forecasts and assumptions contained within this document is that the population is expected to approximately double over the next 40 years from the current 2.5 million up to between 4.6 million and 5.6 million—an increase of around 100 per cent over that time. Obviously, accommodating that growth of population in an affordable way is important. We expect there will be a continuation of growth, with approximately three-quarters of the Western Australian population accommodated within the Perth metropolitan area and so it is necessary that we have appropriate planning schemes, strategies, policies and legislation to ensure that that can occur in an affordable way and without having excessive urban sprawl. I draw attention, for example, to page 95 of the “State Planning Strategy”, which states —

Urban consolidation that provides a higher density and mix of housing styles and types around ... public spaces and transport corridors can generate economies of scale for affordable living.

Mr M. McGowan interjected.

Mr J.H.D. DAY: I am delighted that the Leader of the Opposition just referred to Lancelin to Bunbury, because he is drawing upon a comment that was made in his online session for *The West Australian* in response to a correspondent or caller named Chris. I do not know whether this was a serious call or a dorothy dixer, but it was claimed that I said the other day that I expected Perth to eventually stretch from Lancelin to Bunbury as one conurbation. I would like it to be understood and placed on the public record that I have never said anything of that nature at all. I have never thought that would be the case. It is not my expectation.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan, you are on three calls—not two but three—so I would not shout out if I were you.

Mr J.H.D. DAY: I certainly do not expect there will be one conurbation between Lancelin and Bunbury. The extent of the very large degree of urban development that we have in the Perth metropolitan area at the moment is largely between Yanchep and Mandurah, and that is extending eastwards to Mundaring, Byford, Armadale and so on. It is necessary that we have appropriate planning policies to ensure that we do not have an excessive reliance on peripheral urban development. We need much more urban consolidation and infill projects and

higher density developments in appropriate areas, such as around public transport routes, train stations and so on. I think there is bipartisan support for that approach between the government and opposition. It is not a new concept. It has been developing now for well over 15 years or so, and certainly I have been saying it in the almost six years that I have been Minister for Planning. The government has policies in place; for instance, “Directions 2031: Draft Spatial Framework for Perth and Peel” and legislation to ensure that we can have a greater focus on growth occurring in those areas.