

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PLANNING COMMISSION — LIVEABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS

744. Mr F.A. ALBAN to the Minister for Planning:

I understand that the minister recently launched a new suburban design policy. Can he please update the house on how this policy will improve local neighbourhoods?

Mr J.H.D. DAY replied:

I thank the member for the question. I was pleased to launch a draft of the revised liveable neighbourhoods design policy just last Friday when I attended the Planning Institute of Australia's Western Australian division state conference. I must say there was a very impressive range of speakers, one being former Lord Mayor of Sydney, Mrs Lucy Turnbull, who participated by video link because she was unwell and unable to travel to Perth, but I must say it was a very impressive presentation.

The revised liveable neighbourhoods design policy is very important in the design of major subdivisions and suburbs. The current version has been in operation since the late 1980s, and it plays a very important role in addressing issues of liveability, walkability, transport access and so on in relation to the development of new neighbourhoods. The draft revised policy has a greater focus on designing places so that local community facilities can be accessed by residents by walking, cycling or public transport, rather than an overreliance on the use of motor vehicles, and that is appropriate in contemporary terms. There is also policy guidance on where to develop activity centres and provide local shopping, commercial and employment opportunities. The document is available for public comment on the Department of Planning website until 13 November.

In conjunction with the revised liveable neighbourhoods policy, a lot of work is also being done in the Department of Planning, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, on the architectural design of buildings, particularly larger residential building developments—apartment developments. With the increased reliance on and number of these sorts of developments being undertaken in the Perth metropolitan area in particular, it is essential that we have good design outcomes, and the preparation of a draft state planning policy on architectural design principles for multi-residential developments is currently underway, as well as a best practice model for design advisory panels to be used by state and local government bodies in assessing development applications. A discussion paper is also being put together on the possibility of mandating that large-scale developments be designed by a registered architect or other accredited design professional to ensure that we get high-quality design outcomes.