

WHEATBELT LAND USE PLANNING STRATEGY — ACCESS

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

I refer to the recently released Wheatbelt land use planning strategy.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that this document is currently only available online through the Department of Planning's website?
- (2) Can the minister also confirm that, to view the complete strategy, 26 separate documents must be downloaded?
- (3) Did the department print any copies of the strategy; and, if not, why not?
- (4) If regional and rural stakeholders do not have access to online services, how can they view the strategy so as to make comment?
- (5) In what format has the Barnett government made other comparable land use strategies available to stakeholders for their comment?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

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

- (1) The document is available online. The 43 local governments and selected stakeholders will shortly be receiving a CD containing all documents plus a hard copy of the Wheatbelt strategy and maps.
- (2) The strategy consists of two parts: a background report with 16 maps and a strategy document with two maps. Government publishing policy dictates that online documents should be of an appropriate size to enable effective viewing and downloading. Although it is possible to create a single document containing all text and maps, it is unlikely that average home computers could easily access these files.
- (3) The Strategy and Regional Profile is a large document consisting of 230 colour pages and 23 A3 colour maps. The cost of printing the draft document was investigated for 100 copies, with an estimated price of \$270 per copy. This was not considered a reasonable expense for a draft document that could be subject to further modification in a short period. Printing of the final document has been budgeted for later this calendar year.
- (4) The government has established a statewide network of community resource centres—CRCs; formally telecentres—with internet access for community purposes. There are 42 CRCs in the Wheatbelt region, which will enable most Wheatbelt residents to access the document. In addition, the Planning WA website includes contact details for an officer who can provide a point for inquiries as well as CDs and a printed copy of the strategy.
- (5) The Pilbara planning and infrastructure framework is currently out for public comment and is available online. Hard copies are also available.