

METROPOLITAN REGION IMPROVEMENT TAX

619. Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN to the Minister for Regional Development:

I refer to the proposed expansion of the metropolitan region improvement tax to regional Western Australia, which will further increase the cost of living and working in the regions.

- (1) Does the minister support the introduction of a regional improvement tax in regional Western Australia?
- (2) Have the impacts of this tax on regional Western Australia been investigated by the Department of Regional Development?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

I thank the member for Mandurah for the question.

- (1)–(2) Yes, I do support it. I am obviously a member of the Economic and Expenditure Reform Committee, a subcommittee of cabinet that decides on the whole budget and financial process. That has been through Treasury's due diligence, the whole process of working up the budget and putting it in place. It has my complete support. As described by the Minister for Planning recently, if we are looking at the expansion of the Perth metropolitan area down through that corridor into the southern regions, and we are to have a funding process in place to support the purchase of land to allow community assets and pathways to be developed, it is appropriate that we support the expansion of that program, so it has my full support.