

STRATA TITLE — REFORMS

570. Mr J.N. CAREY to the Minister for Lands:

I refer to the biggest reform of strata laws in more than 20 years.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how these changes will improve transparency, accountability and fairness for strata owners, residents, developers and managers?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house whether it is true, as claimed by the visionary member for Cottesloe, that this is all part of the Labor Party's "dystopian view of housing density and land ownership"?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for that question.

- (1)–(2) The proposed reforms have been a long time coming—five years in drafting and consultation. I acknowledge the work, as I always do, of the previous Minister for Lands, for starting that project and making sure that the process started to make sure we modernise our strata title system. The community has changed, in case no-one has realised. There is more desire for mixed-use developments and older people want to live in their suburbs in their old age. There are more mixed-use developments. Communities want to share the cost of infrastructure and there is more flexibility to use such things as solar panels and renewable energy.

The proposed strata reforms will address all this and they will also increase the transparency and clarity of the strata system, which we know is outdated. A couple of aspects of that, of course, are the creation of community titles and leasehold strata. This is all about giving people real choice of where they live in their communities. That is not just about density and liveability; it is about giving younger people the chance to live in the suburb they know and older people the opportunity to downsize in the suburb they know and where they know the doctors and the shopping centre.

I was shocked to see the member for Cottesloe's comments in the paper. He said —

"It is clear that the key figures in WA Labor have a deep, even bitter dislike of this dream and are determined to force us into high-density, collective accommodation that we don't even own," ...

The Cold War is over, member for Cottesloe. The idea that giving people choice in housing and that renters are second-class citizens in WA comes from the member for Cottesloe. Somehow, if one does not own their own home, they should not be looked after by the government. That is what he is saying—that renters are second-class citizens.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Pardon?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, I want to hear the answer.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cottesloe!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Cottesloe thinks that unless one has an 800-square metre home in Nedlands, they should not bother. One should either live in an 800 or 1 000-square metre home in Cottesloe or live on the streets. That is his comparison.

Mr J.N. Carey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Perth, I call you to order for the first time.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Meanwhile, the former Minister for Lands is promoting strata title reform. One of the first letters I received was from the member for Vasse dated 28 March 2017. It commenced —

I am writing to you to seek your Government's support for new strata title laws to be introduced as a priority when Parliament begins.

That is modern thinking! The member for Scarborough has been engaged positively in the debate, attending briefings, and basically making a positive contribution, and she too wrote to me late last year saying, "I know the

former Minister for Lands had prepared the legislation; I want you to bring it in as soon as possible.” I do not know where it is at, but if this is the new policy mastermind of the opposition, those who believe that we are forcing —

Mr W.J. Johnston: Make him leader!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Make him leader! I look forward to the debate this afternoon.