

HOUSING — PLANNING REFORM

**145. Mr M.J. FOLKARD to the Minister for Planning:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's efforts to cut red tape and allow for the construction of more homes.

- (1) Can the minister advise the house of how this government's sensible reforms will create jobs and deliver more housing choices for our community?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house whether she is aware of anyone who opposes the government's attempts to create more affordable housing?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Burns Beach for that question. My questions always seem to have that last part: can you inform us of anyone who opposes what we are doing? I am always glad when I get that part of a question. I thank the member for the question because, of course, we have rolled out our new range of planning reforms and initiatives to support more housing in Western Australia because we know we need more housing in WA to make sure we can have diversity in housing supply and continue to house our community.

We are rolling out a number of key initiatives. The continued planning reform is, of course, making sure we have more certainty and less risk in the planning system. We have rolled out the new medium-density code, which is a new initiative and is the first in Australia. It is all about trying to make sure we get better medium density so when we do infill projects, we get better quality medium density that has a wider variety of house sizes, a retention of trees and, in particular, a requirement for vegetation as part of the development. Our new infrastructure development fund helps deliver more housing in regional WA by precinct planning, but it also supports new medium-density housing in the metropolitan area.

The initiatives have had broad support from across the community. Shelter WA said that it warmly welcomes the release of WA's first-ever medium-density housing code and stated that the code promotes the diversity and choice in housing that is so desperately needed in our residential developments. The Urban Development Institute of Australia stated that the medium-density code strikes the right balance between affordability, amenity and accessibility in the future design of medium density. The Civil Contractors Federation applauded the infrastructure development fund, in particular, and noted that the high cost of civil works is often a major obstacle for developments. The Western Australian Local Government Association supported the infrastructure development fund. The City of Canning supported our initiatives. There is support from across the community because we know that we need more housing, better quality housing and a diversity of housing.

Who still opposes what we are doing in the community, members? The Liberal Party. The party that was born from capitalism hates capitalism nowadays. It hates the free market and it hates capitalism. It does not believe that we should let people build anything on their properties and someone else should be controlling that. It does not believe that property owners have the right to construct new housing on their land.

We are very proud of what we are doing in the planning space creating new opportunities and new homes for Western Australians and making sure that we have diversity of supply. I do not know who the opposition is appealing to; it is not the public who want more quality homes. It opposes everything.

I must say, noting the opposition, on that question from the member for North West Central, talk about dancing down the wicket leaving your wickets exposed! Asking a question on that issue —

*Point of Order*

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Madam Speaker —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please! I can guess what your point of order is about. Minister, you have been given quite a lot of leeway in your answer, please do not divert to answering a previously asked question. Go back to the question you were asked.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Fair enough—I accept that call. That was a bit of a stretch! Even I will accept that was a bit of a stretch. That pivot really did not work. Talk about dancing down the wicket!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Back on point, please.

**Mr D.R. Michael** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Balcatta!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** It is Thursday. Of course we will continue to drive reform and new initiatives to create more housing. The Liberal Party opposes everything we do to create more housing supply in WA.