

PLANNING — SCHEMES — ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1105. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the minister representing the Minister for Planning:

I refer to information provided by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation on the number of environmental impact assessments of planning schemes and scheme amendments referred under section 48 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, noting there has been a steady decline in the number of schemes referred—from 230 schemes in 2016–17 to 76 schemes in 2022–23.

- (1) Why has there been such a significant reduction in schemes being referred?
- (2) How many schemes currently rest with the Minister for Planning and the Western Australian Planning Commission for finalisation?
- (3) Noting the introduction of the state development assessment unit, which allows developments that do not comply with planning schemes to be approved, is it the intent that the minister not support the update of planning schemes because they are now irrelevant to the Cook Labor government?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

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

- (1) All schemes and scheme amendments are referred to the Environmental Protection Authority in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2005. The volume each year fluctuates, depending on local government and industry activity.
- (2) As of 20 September 2023, 10 local planning scheme or scheme amendments are currently with the Minister for Planning or the Western Australian Planning Commission for finalisation.
- (3) When determining development applications under part 17 of the Planning Development Act 2005, the Western Australian Planning Commission is required to have due regard to, among other matters, the purpose and intent of a local planning scheme.