

PLANNING — ST QUENTIN AVENUE — CLAREMONT

Statement by Member for Cottesloe

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe) [12.53 pm]: I rise to inform Parliament that this government is creating dismay and outright anger in the community over its disdain for the community on planning matters—in particular, the approval of high-rise developments in inappropriate locations such as quiet residential streets. The latest incident involves the Claremont council's bewilderment at being completely sidelined in a process that resulted in a 19-storey tower being approved for St Quentin Avenue. Claremont council has actively worked with developers and the state government on a new local planning scheme, including appropriate height limits for apartments in the town centre. Claremont has already exceeded the state government's 2050 infill development target. That shows it is not a council simply opposed to appropriate high density. The discussions with the WAPC were centred on an agreed height limit of 10 storeys in the town centre. It is also a council that respects the views and wishes of the local community, who are the people who live with the legacy of planning decisions—something this Labor government has wilfully ignored. Instead, we have a situation well described by the Town of Claremont's mayor, Jock Barker. He said that communities right through WA have been robbed of their right to have a say in how their areas should look.

This Labor government should be ashamed of its betrayal of the community's rightful expectation to have a say in what their neighbourhoods look like. Ordered planning decisions have been abandoned in favour of quick profits for a few developers at the expense of sensible outcomes and the long-term amenity of local communities.