

PLANNING — ST QUENTIN AVENUE — CLAREMONT

391. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Planning:

I refer to the approval of a 19-storey tower for St Quentin Avenue in Claremont, a decision that has angered the local community and the council.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, members! It is really unruly to interject while a question is being asked.

Dr D.J. HONEY: It is a decision that has angered the local community and the council, which thought it was working well with the state government on a long-term plan for the development of the Claremont town centre with a 10-storey limit.

- (1) Is the minister aware that Claremont council has already exceeded the 2050 infill target?
- (2) Is the minister concerned that the council feels betrayed after working cooperatively with the government on a mutually acceptable plan only to be blindsided by this decision?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

- (1)–(2) I find it extraordinary that the opposition appears to be in an alternative reality, and that alternative reality is this: the opposition criticises and makes complaints about housing, yet it ignores every solution we drive. It is very clear that the member is against density.

Dr D.J. Honey: Answer the question!

Mr J.N. CAREY: Can I answer the question or would the member like to —

Dr D.J. Honey: You're not answering the question.

Mr J.N. CAREY: Member, you really should come with a warning label!

The SPEAKER: Member for Cottesloe, you will get the opportunity for a supplementary question if you do not incessantly interject.

Mr J.N. CAREY: I want to be very clear that we have set processes in place that give consideration. There is always discretion in planning schemes; that is the reality. We have discretion in planning schemes, and those decision-makers give consideration to the built form, the design and so forth. But what I know is this: we desperately need more housing. Across this country we need more housing. Every state is looking at further planning reform. What I hear from the opposition side is that it is criticising every initiative we do on housing reform and it is criticising developments that bring more housing into the market. Where does the member for Cottesloe think that demand for those apartments is coming from?

Dr D.J. Honey: Not from low-income earners.

Mr J.N. CAREY: Exactly; it is coming from the member's own constituency. The reality is that the member for Cottesloe complains that there is density in the western suburbs. That is driven by the market. Every one of those developments is being bought out, and all the property developers will tell the member that they are being bought out by locals who are making the decision to downsize. That is the commercial market. It is being driven by the market. We have this absurd reality of an opposition that is now arguing against further housing supply. I really look forward to the next election because I do not know what the opposition will take to the next election. It opposes planning reform, it opposes our infrastructure fund, it opposes us creating transitional facilities out of hotel accommodation and it opposes Boorloo Bidee Mia. What will the opposition do to increase housing in Western Australia?